

Abu Daoud flown to Algiers after release in Paris

Abu Daoud, the Palestinian who planned the events which led to the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre, arrived in Algiers last night after a Paris court rejected attempts to extradite him to Israel. He had been under provisional arrest in France. Israel has recalled its envoy in Paris and has accused the French of capitulating to pressure from Arab states.

Identity denied at secret hearing

Mr Abu Daoud, the Palestinian who planned the events which led to the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre, arrived in Algiers last night after a Paris court rejected attempts to extradite him to Israel. He had been under provisional arrest in France. Israel has recalled its envoy in Paris and has accused the French of capitulating to pressure from Arab states.



Mr Abu Daoud on his way to Orly airport yesterday.

Under the cover of his false identity, he came to Paris last week as part of a delegation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. He was arrested in a Paris street. As such he was received at the Quai d'Orsay just before DST counter-intelligence agents arrested him.

Sterling deal gives year healthy start, Prime Minister says

Referring to the option being given to official holders of sterling to convert any part of their holdings into negotiable medium term foreign currency bonds, Mr Healey said the agreement would not reduce the freedom of non-resident sterling holders to manage their holdings as they wished. The rate of interest on the foreign currency bonds would be about half that on existing sterling deposits; the precise level would be settled in relation to particular currencies.

Britain is given 6 to 8 years to meet cost

By David Blake
British authorities are to begin an intensive round of talks with holders of sterling balances in London to explain the details of the scheme worked out in Basle and to reassure them about its impact on holding currencies.

Drug couple described as spreaders of death

'May' Wong (right), a Malaysian educated at Roehampton, who, with her lover, was jailed in London for 14 years for trafficking in Chinese heroin. Judge Argyle, QC, said the couple were spreaders of crime, disease, corruption and even death. He called for the closure of illegal gambling clubs which the trial had highlighted. If the club existed, he said, there was no reason why those unlicensed clubs should not be dealt with swiftly, because they caused much of the misery connected with the heroin trade. Eleven other people were sent to jail for their part in the trade.



Union criticism of Labour rift

Leaders of 33 unions affiliated to the Labour Party criticised the political divisions between the party's left-dominated national executive and the Cabinet. The union officials, who had been asked to pledge more money to the party, said the open conflict between executive and Government hampered their ability to increase cash aid. But they agreed to help in a long-term programme of financial support.

Shops defy ban on bread delivery

The Keymarkets supermarket chain has kept the price of a large loaf at 17p in its shops in the Home Counties in defiance of a ban on bread deliveries to shops charging below a minimum of 18p or 19p. The minimum was set by deliverymen belonging to the United Road Transport Union.

More help for Ulster widows

New compensation proposals for victims of violence in Ulster include special payments to widows and children of murdered Servicemen. Compensation for injury to an unborn child is also suggested.

Kaunda pledges on Rhodesia

The guerrilla war in Rhodesia will end as soon as an interim government acceptable to all parties involved is established, President Kaunda of Zambia has assured Mr Ian Smith, the British chairman of the Geneva talks. The Commons heard that a January 17 resumption at Geneva has been ruled out.

Battle on 'Think Tank' report

A battle is being waged among senior civil servants over whether to allow publication of the 'Think Tank's' controversial report on the foreign services, which is expected to be completed by March. The report is expected to recommend reorganization of the Foreign Office.

US is dismayed, Dr Kissinger says

here because the senior American diplomat in Khartoum was murdered, with a Belgian diplomat, by Palestinian terrorists in an effort to free Mr Daoud in Jordan.

Israel calls decision shameful and recalls ambassador

Mr Allon said the French Government had acted with unseemly haste. Recalling that Mr Abu Daoud had been freed the day after Israel had tabled a request that he be held for a further 60 days pending extradition formalities, the Foreign Minister commented: "We view with great gravity this act of the French Government which is a shameful capitulation to the pressure of Arab states and threats from terrorist organizations."

Surprise and regret in Bonn

From Dan van der Vat
Bonn, Jan 11
The French court's decision to release Mr Abu Daoud took the West Germans completely by surprise. The Bavarian judges were still debating whether to apply through the Federal Government in Bonn for his extradition when the news of his release came.

enkins attack on 'profit r loss' view of EEC

Mr Michael Hornsby, Labour MP, today criticised the European Commission for its "profit r loss" view of the EEC. He said the Commission was "not interested in the future of the Community, but in the profits of the big companies."

Two more die in South African police custody

Johannesburg, Jan 11—Two men detained under the South African Terrorism Act died in jail at the weekend, police said today. General Gert Prinsloo, the police commissioner, said one man hanged himself and the other collapsed and died.

Union calls off ban on ministry statistics work

By Tim Jones
Labour Staff
The national executive committee of the Civil and Public Services Association last night pulled back from a confrontation with the Government when it decided to call off its ban on statistical work at the Department of Employment.

Right now, your best policy is probably one of ours.

We have policies to cover practically everything you care to name. There is a complete range of Life Assurance for investment and family protection. Policies to protect your income in the event of sickness or accident. Group and individual pension plans. 'Blue Plan' home and motor insurance. And 'Tradepak' policies for business protection. But perhaps more important than the policies themselves is the company behind them. Guardian Royal Exchange is one of Britain's very largest insurance companies, and our history dates back more than 250 years. Which is nice to know in these uncertain times. So if you'd like more details of any of our policies, have a chat with your broker or local GRE branch.

STOP PRESS: Ask about our new Dynamic Savings Plan with increasing premiums that automatically top up your regular savings.

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A good name to insure with.

Transport House workers join battle over Mr Bevan

By Michael Hatfield
Political Staff
Labour's internal troubles over the appointment of a Trotskyist national youth officer, Mr Andrew ("Andy") Bevan, deepened yesterday when party staff named the barrister as his defence.

Man threatened to blow up jet
An unnamed American was being held in Pentonville prison, London, last night after threatening to blow up a "jumbo" jet airliner during a transatlantic flight. He told the crew of the TWA aircraft 90 minutes after take-off from New York that he had a grenade and would pull the pin unless he was taken to Uganda. The crew kept him talking for two hours and passengers were then asked to volunteer to restrain him. At Heathrow the man was seen by doctors, then taken to prison.

Lord Avon
Lord Avon, the former Prime Minister, was still seriously ill yesterday. No further statement on his health is expected until any change occurs.

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HOME NEWS

Judge jails Malaysian heiress and her lover for 14 years for trafficking in Chinese heroin

A Malaysian heiress and her lover, described by Judge Argyle, QC, as being up to their necks in heroin trafficking, were given 14-year jail sentences at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

The judge said Shing "May" Wong, aged 30, and her lover, Li Jaafar Mah, aged 26, headed a conspiracy to supply Chinese heroin between May and October, 1975, and were spreaders of crime, disease, corruption and even death.

He told Miss Wong: "When your tiny shadow fell on Gerard Street, metaphorically the whole street was darkened and you and your confederates walked through the valley of the shadow of death."

Their sales agent and fellow conspirator, Molly Yeow, aged 32, of Montpellier Grove, Kenilworth, London, was jailed for 10 years. The judge told her that she might be regarded as the chief of staff, responsible for the collection of information and distribution of the drug.

Before dealing with Miss Wong and Li Jaafar Mah, who lived in St. Mary's Avenue, Finchley, London, and Miss Yeow, the judge sentenced 11 other people, all but one of them Chinese, who had been found guilty of or pleaded guilty to offences connected with Chinese heroin.

He told Miss Wong and Li Jaafar Mah: "You two were undoubtedly the ringleaders in this particular case which was involved in the distribution of diamorphine [Chinese heroin]."

"You, May, are a man of previous good character, but when your business got into debt you took up this type of crime at the highest level."

In the course of your mitigation, it was accepted that you were the commander and

claimed only to have blamed Wong while she was safely in Singapore, apparently beyond reach of the law in this country."

Li Jaafar Mah also had two guns capable of killing, and one had been fired.

The judge told Miss Wong she was taking into account in the sentence that she had spent a long time in custody and had helped the police with information not divulged in open court. But he added: "You were born with a golden spoon in your mouth and have taken by way of education as good, if not the best, as this country can offer."

Medical evidence was unanimous that heroin was a drug with a very definite use, especially in cases of terminal cancer, but you and those for whom you worked have abused it.

"You claimed to have infiltrated this criminal organization to avenge the murder of your father, a murder for which I am told seven men have already been judicially executed."

"I cannot judge the truth in this. What is certain is that unlike the police from Vine Street, who also infiltrated the criminal organization, you did it to make money while they did it to prevent crime."

"The evidence of the doctor from Hongkong about the dangerous nature of diamorphine and evidence of the deaths of American soldiers on leave from Vietnam shows the sort of goods in which you were dealing."

Li Jaafar Mah was also given three-year and one-year sentences to run concurrently with the 14 years, after pleading guilty to possessing two pistols and ammunition on October 23, 1975.



Sir Paul Reilly, Director of the Design Council, holding a royal silver jubilee mug designed by Lord Snowdon. In selecting items for display the judges looked for imaginative ideas and good use of materials.

2,000 view jubilee souvenirs

By Peter Godfrey

More than two thousand people visited an exhibition of souvenirs manufactured to commemorate the Queen's silver jubilee on its opening day at the London Design Centre yesterday. Several lines of goods were sold out.

The exhibits were admired by many British visitors but received more enthusiastic scrutiny from foreigners. All agreed that the products made by sixty companies, selected by a design panel chaired by the Prince of Wales, achieved in most cases a high degree of craftsmanship.

The products on display range from a limited edition of basalt and gold Wedgwood mugs costing £75 each to cufflinks, can-openers and, for the painstaking, a jigsaw which assembles to reveal the 'score of God Save the Queen'. A 'Corgi' model of the Queen's car has yet to receive the official sanction. But the seal of approval has been granted to a version of a Victorian peep-show showing Her Majesty's coronation procession coming down The Mall.

Although the products exhibited will enjoy special prestige, any company can purchase the right to use the silver jubilee symbol for £10, half of which is given to the Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal, aimed at encouraging young people to undertake community projects.

A glut of souvenirs is expected. Not all those on display at the Design Centre measure up to the high standard. A children's silver jacket somewhat akin to a space suit was found, much to the consternation of the organizers, to have 'Made in Italy' prominently embossed on it, although the manufacturer was quick to rectify that technical hitch. A gaudy souvenir T-shirt might perhaps find more wearers at rock concerts.

Appropriately, in these devotional days, leather beer mats are available decorated with either an English or Scottish crown. Perhaps the last chuckle will go to Laughing Monarch Products Ltd. of Peasance, which produced a pewter dish only three inches across, a bargain at £5.50.

Call for closure of illegal gambling clubs

By Clive Borrell

Unlicensed gambling clubs in Soho, London, should be closed immediately by the police, Judge Argyle, QC, said at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

These were the den of drug smuggling, the judge said, and their existence should be brought to the attention of Sir Robert Mark, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. They were the cause of misery, connected with the supply and trade in heroin.

Ironically, the judge continued, there appeared to be no satisfactory law that enabled the police to close the clubs until they became officially licensed. If the will was there, there were ways in which the police could put them out of business.

Two detectives, Kenneth Beever and Anthony Beadon, Mid sergeants attached to Vine Street police station, were assigned to infiltrate the Chinese quarter of Soho. For months they sauntered around the streets converging on Gerard Street, pretending to be in the drug business.

Eventually they were accepted as genuine 'pushers'. At much personal risk of violence to themselves and their families they slowly became the two vital inside men 'the police needed to smash the racket.'

Once inside the organization the two officers were surprised to find that one of its two leaders was a beautiful Malaysian woman, May Wong, aged 30, a former pupil of Roedean, who completed her education at a finishing school in Kensington before becoming a model.

She had come to London, she said, and trailed a gang of Triads, a Chinese secret society, who she believed had been responsible for the murder of her father, wealthy bullion dealer, four years earlier. She left her husband and children to insinuate herself into an

international drug smuggling racket so that she could find her father's killers.

She went to Singapore where, she said, she was believed to have led her father's murder. Seven men had already been convicted and executed for killing her father but she was sure that the man who ordered his death was living in London.

While working in London for the gang she was banking up to £900 a day and frequently going to Singapore with suitcases containing money in secret compartments to buy more drugs.

In Singapore she heard that some of her associates had been hurt in a road accident. She made a telephone call to Soho and was told they were gravely ill, she flew back to London and was arrested at Heathrow airport. The man she had spoken to on the telephone was one of the two detectives.

'Morning Star' man's post

By Our Labour Editor

Mr Michael Costello, industrial correspondent of the Morning Star, is to take up a new post in the Communist Party's industrial department. It raises speculation that he will succeed Mr Bert Ramelson as the party's national industrial organizer.

Mr Costello, aged 40, is expected to take up his new position in two months' time. He has been the communist daily newspaper's leading journalist on industrial affairs for more than six years.

His appointment, which has been confirmed by the party leadership, is seen as a first step towards the national organizer's job. Mr Ramelson is nearly 67.

Before he became an industrial journalist Mr Costello held full-time Communist Party posts in South Wales and Kent. Previously he was an organizer in the communist student movement in Prague.

Man to be cleared of landlady blackmail

Farsad Emami, aged 23, an Iranian student, is to be cleared of blackmailing his landlady with nudes photographs, Judge Polson, QC, said at Exeter Crown Court that there was insufficient evidence on the charge of making an unwarranted demand with menaces of £50 from Mrs Denise Sharp, aged 25.

The judge said the jury would also be asked to return a not guilty verdict on the charge of blackmailing Miss Alvin Piramoun, a fellow Iranian student, out of £200.

The decisions came after legal submissions by Mr Montague Waters, QC, defence counsel.

Mr Emami still faces three charges of blackmail; one against Mrs Sharp's husband, and two against Miss Piramoun.

The court has been told that Mr Emami made love to Mrs Sharp after taking what the Crown described as mildly pornographic photographs of her.

Mr Sharp was "appallingly jealous" of Mr Emami and followed him and his wife round the house trying to catch them together, it was stated.

Mrs Margaret Sharland, of Newton Abbot, a friend of the Sharps, said: "Mr Sharp had three loaded shotguns in the house and he (Mr Emami) was frightened that Mrs Sharp could be shot. Mrs Sharp agreed that she also was afraid that her husband might shoot her."

The trial continues today.

ADVERTISEMENT

Make this year a happy one for lonely old Edith

Every day in 1977 she expects to spend utterly alone. The only voices she will hear are the occasional official caller, or on her few visits to the shops. The radio is her only company.

The heartache of loneliness is hard to bear; depressing and damaging to health. Yet one thing could transform life for Edith, and other old people in her district — a Day Centre. Where she could find friendship and new interests.

The tragic plight of old people like Edith is easily forgotten amidst all the other problems of our day. The years are running out for them.

This is why Help the Aged has agreed to help raise the money for an urgently needed new Geriatric Day Hospital — to be part of the Central Middlesex Hospital; the total cost of which will be £280,000. Sir Francis Avery Jones and the medical staff at the Central Middlesex Hospital commend the project.

Thanks to dedicated volunteers Help the Aged is able to achieve a great deal with every £ donated, both at home and overseas.

£5 can bring practical help to another lonely person. £30 can help towards a new Geriatric unit. £150 perpetuates the memory of someone dear to you, by inscribing their name on the Dedication Plaque of a Day Centre in Britain. £100 names a hospital bed in Asia.

Your donation is desperately needed to help old people. So please use the FREEPOST facility and address your gift to: Hon. Treasurer, the Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room T2, FREEPOST 37, LONDON W1E 6UZ (No stamp needed).

*Please let us know if you would like your gift used for a particular purpose.

Holiday refunds as the pound grows stronger

Many holidaymakers may receive refunds on overseas summer visits because of the strengthening pound. Two small holiday companies announced cheaper holidays or added extras for their clients yesterday.

Ibiza Tourism, which expects to send about 15,000 tourists to the island this year, announced a 2 per cent refund on brochure prices. People leaving on flights later this week may expect refunds of up to £4.

Another company, John Hill Travel, which specializes in villa holidays in Portugal, is paying for meals to do its clients' washing up.

Mr Harry Chandler, chairman of the Association of British Travel Agents, the tour operators' council, said the pound was gaining momentum against the dollar and the Swiss franc, but winter holidaymakers should not expect refunds. Winter holiday prices had been set against the pound's value last March and sterling had fallen far since then.

Laker Air Travel announced that it would extend its summer advance booking charters to America.

Industrial democracy 3: Factory councils have influential role

By Dan van der Vat

Legally guaranteed and enforced participation by workers in running their place of work is almost universal in both public and private sectors in West Germany, and is regulated by four seminal statutes. They are: the law on worker participation in the coal, iron and steel industries (Montan-Mitbestimmung) of 1951, the works constitution law of 1952 (as amended in 1972), the personnel representation law of 1955 and the law on general worker participation (Mitbestimmung) of 1976.

While foreign interest tends to focus on Mitbestimmung, the works constitution law is the true foundation of industrial democracy in West Germany and deserves to be examined first. The personnel representation law is effectively an adaptation of it to suit the public sector.

It applies to all firms with five or more employees. In general there are exceptions, it requires a works with 500 or more employees to set up a works council, on which one member in three must come from, or represent, the shop floor.

They are elected for three years by the works assembly of all the staff. The other two thirds are elected by shareholders from the management.

Although the council is outnumbered by two to one, they may consult their union, whose representative has absolute right of access to the plant if he tells the employer he is coming.

If there is a dispute neither side on the council can take unilateral action. The management cannot order a change, nor can the workers down tools. Arbitration must be sought.

The council has the right to determine working conditions, notice periods, starting times, breaks, social matters and the like, and the duty to ensure that industrial legislation is applied in the works to the benefit of the work force.

Mitbestimmung works at company rather than factory level, and originally affected only companies in the coal, iron and steel industries with more than a thousand workers. There the supervisory board, which, among other things, controls the management board that runs the company from day to day, has absolute parity between capital and labour, with a neutral chairman.

Under this year's new law, Mitbestimmung in an adapted form now applies to all companies with 2,000 or more employees or West Germany's 600 to 650 large companies.

New-model Mitbestimmung differs from Montan-Mitbestimmung in that it does not give workers parity with management on supervisory boards.

Three provisions give capital the final say. First, the chairman of the supervisory board is elected by shareholders; second, he has a casting vote in a deadlock; and third, although the board of 12 to 20 members, depending on the size of the firm, is theoretically equally divided between management and workers, at least one on the "workers' side must be a senior executive.

Ministry studies Children Act errors

By Par Healy

Social Services Correspondent

The Department of Health and Social Security is considering what action may be necessary in the light of inaccuracies in the Children Act, 1975, disclosed by Mr Hugh Rossi, an opposition spokesman on the environment. But the department takes the view that the published form of the Act is the law, until challenged.

The inaccuracies in the published form of the Act concern a section limiting the right of a local authority to remove a child from a foster-home when the foster-parents or another family apply to adopt the child.

The section was amended in the standing committee on the Children Bill in the Commons, but the amended form was lost between the committee stage and the third reading.

Because the amended section was not presented at the third reading, the Bill cleared all remaining stages without it. Towards the end of the 1975 session, when there was pressure to complete a number of measures, the Bill was rushed through.

Mr Rossi has questioned whether both the Children Act and the Rent (Agriculture) Act, dealing with farmworkers in tied cottages, can be valid when both have been published without amendments passed by Parliament. The Government has promised a short Bill to amend the Rent (Agriculture) Act to correct the discrepancies.

The department is taking legal advice on whether a similar measure will be necessary to correct the Children Act.

The purpose of the amendment was to make clear that the restrictions on removing a child from a foster-home apply when a child is in the care of one local authority while the prospective adopter lives in another.

Labour call for Chile match to be cancelled

The Labour Party's international committee is asking ministers to bring pressure on the Scottish Football Association to cancel Scotland's match against Chile at Santiago in June.

Mr Ian Mikardo, MP, chairman of the committee, said yesterday: "This match would be played at a stadium which was a concentration camp."

"Many people were held there before being taken away to their deaths. We do not think that Britain should be playing football in that place."

The committee is to ask Mr

Information on conveyancing fees suggested

By Our Legal Correspondent

The British Property Federation has proposed that solicitors should be allowed to publish information on their scale charges for domestic conveyancing.

In evidence to the Royal Commission on Legal Services the federation says the legal profession should continue to have a monopoly on some property conveyancing work.

But there was room to extend the practice of delegating many duties not requiring the services of a fully qualified solicitor.

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Minister promises to restrain food prices

By Hugh Clayton

Consumer groups formed an unprecedented alliance with the Government yesterday against higher food prices. They reported enthusiastically that Mr John Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, had assured them that "spiralling food prices would be held back in 1977."

Mr Michael Young, chairman of the Government-appointed National Consumer Council, said after representatives of 20 associations had met Mr Silkin that they wanted to form a united front with consumer groups throughout the EEC against unnecessarily high farm-support prices.

"We are not against the Common Market," Mr Young said. Mrs Joan Mackintosh, deputy chairman of the council, added: "There is no question of bashing farmers. Let us get the equilibrium right between the interests of farmers and consumers."

Those who lobby ministers of agriculture customarily make statements to reporters afterwards on the steps of the ministry. Mr Young and his team were given a large conference room.

Even more remarkably, they gave an account of what Mr Silkin had said which was more realistic than his own laconic statement issued through officials. That said: "The consumer groups have re-emphasized some points on which my view is already in line. I need to hold down domestic agricultural policy support prices."

Mr Silkin also said, according to Mr Young, "the more noise we make the better". The minister did not say that he was a "strong" supporter of the remaining transitional steps to full Community price levels for two years, but he had condemned the system for creating food irrespective of whether shoppers wanted to buy it.

This is the last year in which British food prices move upwards in states towards full EEC levels under the terms of accession agreed in 1973. Mr Young said those movements alone would add 60 pence to a pound in the spring and again in the autumn and up to a large loaf. He thought those rises would add enough to farmers' incomes without the need for more increases at the imminent Community price-fixing.

There was only one point on which Mr Silkin had not given the groups all they wanted. They had sought an assurance that the Government would not accept a devaluation of the pound, the device with which EEC farm prices are expressed in sterling.

Mr Young quoted the minister again: "He said that this, of course, is a bargaining counter in current negotiations, and that he would use this bargaining counter for the benefit of the nation as a whole."

Further support for the minister's policy came from the processing industry. The Cocoa, Chocolate and Confectionery Alliance, which represents the largest makers of sweets in the country, said that British farmers did not need further increases in support prices for sugar.

"Increases have kept well ahead of the cost of living over the past three years, and an average yield will provide the best-growth with an adequate return. There is no reason to give farmers financial incentives so that they will increase their area under sugar beet and produce surpluses."

Six-month deadline for 20 more schools

By Our Education Correspondent

Mrs Williams, Secret State for Education Science, is to give schools more local education authority a six-month deadline next to produce plans for comprehensive.

The list of authorities to be made final before Williams announces in House of Commons her first step in the drive to Education Act, 1976, into effect.

The list will be divided into three groups. The first will include Bolton and other authorities, which Williams feels have no go comprehensive. They added to the list: "The second category will be those authorities, although they have one way to reorganise their schools as comprehensives, still large pockets of selection remain in them. In Don, and Williams' new directive aimed at Plymouth and T. The third category is authorities that have completely comprehensive for the individual school run as a voluntary controlled school. The target will be Birmingham where there are four Edward's grammar schools in the state sector, and W. Hampton.

Delay over 'hybrid' Bill issue

By a Staff Reporter

Preliminary hearings concerning the possibility that the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill is hybrid are expected to continue at least until next week. That will increase delays in passing the legislation implementing nationalization.

Hearings by the Examiners of Private Bills in the Lords began on December 20, and after the Christmas adjournment resumed yesterday. After yesterday's session Mr Hugh Gannon, of the Government, said: "We are getting concerned about the timetable."

However, after discussion with the examiners and with representatives of those who seek to prove that the Bill is hybrid and thus requires a lengthy procedure in the Lords, it became clear that there is no real prospect of completing the hearings this week.

During yesterday's session Mr T. G. Talbot, QC, one of the examiners, said he hoped the argument would be on agreed facts. However, Mr Christopher Bailey, of Bristol Channel Ship Repairs, said that if the Department of Industry was to say that certain matters were factual it had to prove its case.

Mr Bailey did not think it possible to decide whether ship-repairing companies should be included in the list for nationalization falling firm evidence about what work the companies were doing.

Man getting £31 benefit 'was offered £33 jobs'

A man who has not worked since 1973 complained that he was sent after jobs offering £33 a week when he was drawing £31 a week in benefits for himself and his wife and two children. Old Street Magistrates' Court, London, was told yesterday.

Mr Basil Corcos, prosecuting on behalf of the Post Office, said: "Paul, aged 46, had told a Department of Employment official: 'Find me a £60 a week job and I'll go after it.'"

Mr Paul, a turner, living in a council flat in Stanway Street, Hoxton, was sentenced to a month's imprisonment in December 1975, for neglecting to maintain himself. Mr Corcos said:

He was before the court yesterday for a similar offence persistently neglecting to maintain himself in consequence of which benefit was awarded to him between 15 and July 22 last year. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three months imprisonment, suspended for years.

Mr Paul said that if he took up the jobs offered he would be worse off after fare expenses. He had been employed until 1973 and said that he would have back to work.

Mr John Nichols, the trustee, said: "I am going to give you a chance to disprove this change of thou

Two to appear after £150,000 Scots bank raid

Two men are to appear at Airdrie Sheriff Court, Strathclyde, today in connexion with a robbery in which more than £150,000 was stolen from the Royal Bank of Scotland at Cumbernauld, near Glasgow, yesterday.

Police officers arrested two men near Stirling after road blocks had been set up.

Mr James Binnie, Assistant Chief Constable, Crime, of Strathclyde, said the stolen money had been recovered, as had two firearms.

The robbery was at a bank on the edge of Cumbernauld new town.

Pop group gifts described

Mr Alan Dunn, road manager of the Rolling Stones group, was asked at Aylesbury Crown Court, Buckinghamshire, yesterday if the group had ever given drugs by their fan Mr Dunn was giving evidence for the defence during the trial of Keith Richards, aged 33, a guitarist with the group, who has pleaded not guilty to charges of possessing LSD and cocaine.

Mr Dunn said in reply to Bruce Laughtland, for the prosecution, that fans proffered what they came face to face with the group. It was impossible to say whether they offered LSD.

Mr Laughtland: Did it often proffer gifts of Vicodin silver?

Mr Dunn: The range of it was enormous. It is a pill.

Mr Laughtland alleges Mr Richards wore a silver necklace round his neck with silver tube attached used as a snuff pipe.

Mr Ian Stewart, of Bass Road, Banstead, Surrey, had been connected with Rolling Stones since the group's formation in 1963, said he did not give any instance when fans had put a drug into the mouth of any member of the group but he had known it "generally" in the past.

If members of the group to force their way through it was possible that they exchanged drugs with the police. Peter Rawlinson, QC, Richards' counsel, said: "You think that if you or I been stopped for some offence or other we would be stripped and searched."

The trial continues today.

Norfolk population

The growth of population of Norfolk is expected to increase 50,000 to more than 700,000 much slower rate because the economic climate.

Six-month deadline simplifying air fares would mean rises, inquiry will be told

By Our Education Correspondent

Arthur Reed

British Airways is to tell an inquiry into European air fares that a six-month deadline to produce a new set of fares charged in the United Kingdom should be increased, if looked at from the standpoint of other European airlines.

If there is a change in the European air transport, it is to be found in fare policies, not in the actual fares.

The inquiry is to be held over the next few days by the Civil Aviation Authority, after a report by the House of Commons Select Committee on Transport, which said that the present structure of fares was "overly complicated and overcharged many passengers."

The committee said that air fares in Europe were a "jungle," and that the airlines were "not doing enough to simplify fares."

The committee also said that the airlines were "not doing enough to reduce fares," and that the airlines were "not doing enough to improve the quality of service."

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The committee also said that the airlines were "not doing enough to improve the convenience of service," and that the airlines were "not doing enough to improve the speed of service."

Amenities decline since civic changes

Reorganization of local government has not, as was hoped, improved the environmental field, the Civic Trust for the North West says.

Launching a guidance booklet for amenity societies battling with local authorities, Professor Graham Ashworth, Professor of Urban Environmental Studies at Salford University and executive chairman of the trust, said in Manchester yesterday: "The evidence is that extended bureaucracy, protracted decision-making procedures and a persistent basic insensitivity on the part of members and officials is resulting, if anything, in a decline of environmental standards rather than an improvement."

The booklet is intended to guide the amenity societies, according to Professor Ashworth, "gave a breathing space to local authorities during the reorganization period, and as a consequence have lost some of their initiative."

He said the time had come for them to reactivate themselves and fight against such offences as the creation of out-of-scale buildings, the unnecessary felling of trees, and the despoliation of conservation areas by unnecessary signs and lighting standards.

Professor Ashworth said that since local government reorganization it seemed to take twice as long to get a decision on any planning matter.

Ask (Civic Trust for the North West, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M2 5QD).

Television too demanding a medium for inexperienced entertainers to be given series, expert says

BBC chief denies that talent is ignored

By Kenneth Gosling

People who maintained that a vast amount of untapped entertaining talent in Britain was ignored by television got a short answer yesterday from the man in charge of light entertainment for BBC television.

"I am afraid I just don't believe it," Mr William Cotton said in a BBC lunchtime lecture.

He said that, especially after holiday periods, letters were sent in by people who said they had seen "in some tavern in Spain" a singer, comedian or group much better than "the rubbish you see on television."

He did not argue that there were not people who might be able to entertain on television to a high standard. But the demands of television were enormous, and it was the corporation's responsibility to make sure that an artist was not committed to a series until he or she had the ability and experience to sustain that sort of exposure.

On the other hand, it was vital to keep an open mind and to watch for anything that was new and possible to develop on television.

Mr Cotton also had something to say about the ratings and about charges of extravagance that were levelled against the BBC.

"I have always believed that any entertainment programme that attracts an audience of about 10 million is more than earning its keep, and the criterion that we should apply is as much the enjoyment that people derive from the programme as the number of people who watch it."



Mr William Cotton: Necessary to keep an open mind.

Acas denies 'bullying' equal-pay applicants

By Diana Geddes

Home Affairs Reporter

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) yesterday rejected allegations that its officials had "bullied" women into withdrawing their cases complaining of infringements of the Equal Pay and Sex Discrimination Acts.

In a report published yesterday, on the first year of operation of the two Acts, the National Council for Civil Liberties refers to 606 cases out of 2,053 applications under the Equal Pay Act registered with Acas in the first eight months of 1976, which were withdrawn for reasons other than a private settlement.

Details of why those 606 cases were withdrawn were not available from Acas, the council says. Some would obviously have been dropped on advice that the applicants had no case in law. But the council had heard reports from women who said they had been "bullied" into withdrawing their case by an Acas official who did not really understand the law himself.

Mr James Mortimer, chairman of Acas, which has a statutory duty to offer its services to those applying to an industrial tribunal, has written to Miss Patricia Hewitt, general secretary of the National Council for Civil Liberties: "In nearly two and a half years of existence, I have not received a single complaint from a trade union or from anyone else that any of our staff have bullied applicants into withdrawing complaints under any of the laws affecting employment rights."

The Equal Opportunities Commission yesterday rejected an allegation in the report that it lacked achievement during its first year of existence. Lady Howe, deputy chairman of the commission, said she felt that it had achieved much in helping individuals. The commission had handled more than nine thousand inquiries, of which four thousand concerned employment. It had also "set the springboard" for action in a number of areas this year.

It was about to publish a consultative document on pensionable age. Consultative codes of practice for employers and the advertising industry were already in draft form and would be issued soon.

Few benefits for unemployed

Many of Britain's 1,300,000 unemployed are receiving only supplementary benefit, Mr Orme, Minister of State for Social Security, told a Commons standing committee yesterday.

Most people out of work had run out of other forms of aid, including unemployment benefit.

£31 benefit £33 jobs insurance change for house rebuilding

Householders whose homes have been damaged by subsidence may soon find that they have to find hundreds of pounds more than they expected to meet repairs, even though they are insured.

Most insurance companies have faced claims for subsidence damage over the past few years, and the industry has decided to require householders of policies to pay excess of 3 to 5 per cent of cost of rebuilding the house, not, as at present, of its insured value.

Householders whose properties are underinsured might find their part of the repair bill to be much larger than they expected. Most insurance companies are now sending out notice of this change in the conditions affecting the excess with the householder's policy renewal notice.

Insurance companies have found that many householders have not taken account of the sharp increase in building costs in assessing the value of their homes for insurance purposes. The national average building cost a square foot is now £21, up from £15 two years ago.

Hisbert insurance companies have found that they were paying out proportionately more to underinsured householders than to those who had made the effort to keep their insurances up to date. Hence their decision to base the excess payable by householders on the real value of the home, rather than the rebuilding costs, rather than the insured value.

Pop one-day strike called over gifts

Christopher Thomas

A one-day strike by 35,000 workers in the telecommunications industry has been called for February 1 by the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union to protest at Post Office cuts in aid on telephone exchange equipment.

The union, which is seeking support of several other unions, says 20,000 jobs are at risk.

The action will not affect phone services, as the union's members are not employed directly by the Post Office, Mr Roy Sanderson, the union's general secretary, said last night.

The 14,000 jobs had already been lost because of reduced Post Office orders.

In November 8 the Post Office announced a reduction of £200m in its forthcoming spring levels. The unions and manufacturing companies have posed an alternative strategy of a more aggressive marketing policy. They suggest scrapping telephone installation charges and imposing a single telephone tariff. A high-level inquiry into the Post Office and its relationships with manufacturing companies has been called for.

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Home of legless man damaged

An elderly man without legs will have to stay at least a month longer in hospital because vandals have damaged his specially converted home at Cardenden, Kirkcaldy housing committee was told yesterday.

Electric fittings had been ripped out and the kitchen wrecked.

£4 a day for a boring test

The Department of Employment will pay £4 a day to five applicants for an experiment at the Burdett Neurological Institute, Bristol, to test how easily people get bored.

Dr Ray Cooper, the institute's scientific director, said: "In the past we have used friends, but a person can be used only once."

Thames crossing ban

Mr John Fenny was ordered in the Divorce Court yesterday to stay south of the Thames. Mrs Sandra Ann Fenny, his former wife, had sought his imprisonment for alleged contempt of court orders requiring him to stay away from her home in Manor Court, Capel Road, Enfield, north London.

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WEST EUROPE

Señor Suarez meets negotiating team of opposition parties

From Our Correspondent Madrid, Jan 11

Shootings in the past two days and a rash of demonstrations in which at least two persons have died in a week have aroused fears that Spain might be on the verge of a situation comparable to that in Argentina, of uncontrolled and escalating violence.

However, the Suarez Government remains calm and appears to be moving firmly towards its announced democratic goals.

A negotiating team of four, representing virtually all the opposition parties from centre to left, was received today by Señor Suarez. Opposition leaders had earlier publicly announced that their mission was to negotiate the legalization of all political parties and the broadening of the amnesty.

In another step towards liberalization, a special committee of the Ministry of Justice has reportedly finished its study of a proposal to abrogate the law authorizing the Government to fine or jail dissidents without trial.

The Roman Catholic news agency Logos reported in Madrid today that, according to the proposal, jurisdiction over administrative sanctions would be transferred to ordinary courts.

With the appeal for amnesty spreading, the Madrid evening newspaper, *Informaciones*, said today: "It seems that there is already a consensus between the Suarez Government and the democratic opposition about the need to set political prisoners free as soon as possible. It would not be surprising if the Cabinet took up the question of amnesty at its meeting this week."

On pressure to legalize the

Spanish Communist Party, the newspaper said: "It seems clear that the PCE will be able to present candidates for Parliament, either through 'electoral groups' or as independents. But there will be no legal recognition of (Señor Santiago) Carrillo's party before the spring elections, by all indications."

Terrorists seriously wounded a factory executive in the Basque country today, in the second political shooting in two days.

Señor Gonzalo Santos Turrientes, director of safety and sanitation at the Magefesa factory of home appliances, near Bilbao, was reported to be in serious condition. Gunmen had fired at him from a parked car as he was on his way to work. He had five bullet wounds, the most serious of which were to his stomach and intestines.

It is believed that the attack was carried out by a separatist organization, ETA. Señor Santos is said to have right-wing sympathies.

Doctors in a Madrid hospital reported today that the condition of the three guards from the aircraft factory who had been shot by members of the so-called Reconstituted Communist Party yesterday was improving.

Bilbao: An open air funeral mass for a 15-year-old youth who died during a recent protest demonstration tonight turned into a huge political rally with 25,000 people shouting "Amnesty" and "freedom."

About 60,000 workers around Bilbao, Spain's most important port, struck for the second day to protest against police brutality and the youth's death.

Reuters.



Mr Jenkins signs his name as President of the EEC Commission for the first time after taking the oath at the European Court of Justice.

Tributes at EEC to Mr Jenkins

Continued from page 1

policy could "serve the common good in providing stable supplies of food at reasonable prices as well as stable markets for an efficient European agricultural system."

Discussing the growing divergence of the economies of the member states, Mr Jenkins said that it was no answer to ask the strong to become less strong and the weak more managed. The Community had no business promoting an "equality of weakness."

Nevertheless, Mr Jenkins went on, the willingness of the strong to help the weak, provided the latter were prepared to help themselves, was one of the distinguishing features of the Community. The larger the EEC became, the easier it became to neglect its weaker areas. This could ultimately lead to its destruction.

Of those countries which could be counted on to sustain justice for all individual freedom and intellectual integrity, the EEC accounted for about half. What hope was there for humanity, Mr Jenkins asked, if these countries, among "the richest and certainly among the most favoured and talented populations of the globe," could not learn to live together?

Speaking for the Parliament's Conservative group, Sir

Peter Kirk described Mr Jenkins as "a very great European." The new Commission was a "formidable team" from which much was expected. Other speakers covering the spectrum from Christian Democrat to Communist, echoed this warm endorsement of the ability of Mr Jenkins and his colleagues.

Mr Jenkins is to make a more detailed statement of Commission policy when he addresses the Parliament in February. Speaking for the governments of the Nine, Mr Anthony Crosland, the Foreign Secretary, and President of the EEC's Council of Ministers, tomorrow will outline to the Parliament a programme of work he hopes to see completed over the next six months.

Parliamentary report, page

Berlin check on Bonn mission visits

From Gretel Spitzer Berlin, Jan 11

Relations between the two German states were put to a new test today when East German authorities began to check and in most cases turn back East German visitors to the West German mission in East Berlin.

In addition to the usual guards, policemen were posted in front of the mission. They stopped East Germans on their way in and told them that they could enter only by permission of the East German Foreign Ministry.

Herr Günter Gaus, the head of the West German mission, informed Bonn and then called on the East German Foreign Ministry to point out that the East German interference was bound to lead to a deterioration in relations.

In Bonn, Dr Michael Kohl, the East German permanent representative, saw Herr Hans

Jürgen Wischnewski, the Minister of State for German Affairs, to protest against the measure. Dr Hermann Schmitt-Vockenhausen, vice-president of the Bundestag, who called on Herr Gaus today, said that the measure was a flagrant breach of the Helsinki documents.

The West German mission had contributed to the normalisation of relations between the two German states since it took up work two and a half years ago, he told reporters.

Herr Gaus told reporters that he had complained to the East German Government already in December after noticing that visitors were occasionally subjected to controls.

Last year several dozen East German visitors a day were calling on the West German mission, in many cases applying for permission to move to West Germany.

The growing number of these applications has been a matter of grave concern for the East

German Government for some time.

Some sources put the number at 200,000. While this is likely to be excessive it seems certain that tens of thousands did apply. This was much more than the East Germans were prepared to allow to leave.

East Germany put much of the blame for this development on the western news media and especially West German television. The expulsion of Herr Lothar Lowe, the West German television correspondent just before Christmas must be seen in this context.

The three Western powers protested to the Soviet Government today about East Germany's decision to demand visas from foreigners entering East Berlin on one-day visits from West Berlin. The Allies said it undermined the quadripartite status of the city.

Franco-British call for early summit

By Edward Mortimer

The French and British Governments agreed last night on the need for an early economic summit meeting with the new President of the United States, with unemployment high on the agenda.

Agreement was reached at informal talks between Mr Callaghan and Mr Raymond Barre, the French Prime Minister, who is on a brief, private visit to London.

It was agreed that the time and place of the summit would have to be discussed with President-elect Carter, Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and the other leaders involved. Mr Callaghan said he would be quite happy to have it in Britain, as suggested last week by President Giscard d'Estaing, if that was what other governments wanted; but he would be equally happy to attend a meeting elsewhere.

The talks, which were very friendly, lasted an hour and a half—well beyond the time scheduled for them. Mr Barre then went on to see Mr Healey, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, before speaking at a dinner given by the French Chamber of Commerce.

In his speech, Mr Barre urged French companies to invest in Britain. "We in France are convinced," he said, "that Britain's economic future, beyond her present difficulties, is very promising. Our firms should therefore be investing here both in the distribution sector and in production."

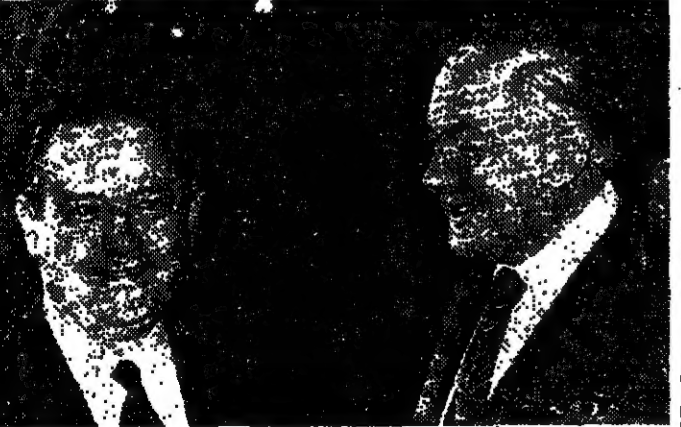
here both in the distribution sector and in production."

This was already happening in North Sea oil exploration, he added, but should be extended to other sectors. He also hoped for more British investment in France, "the development of which has recorded a certain setback in the past few years."

Mr Barre also emphasized the importance of technological co-operation between the two nations, and deplored the failure of attempted "rap-prochements" in nuclear energy and the computer industry. He went on to urge the removal of obstacles to Franco-British trade, such as the differences, excessive customs formalities and "onerous transport problems."

Both countries' economic difficulties were due essentially to the over-rapid rise of production costs and especially wage costs, he said. In Britain's case he was "convinced that the measures recently decided, as well as the financial help obtained from international institutions, will make it possible to accelerate the economic recovery."

Mr Barre also insisted on the need to increase French exports to Britain, pointing out that British exports to France had increased very rapidly last year. He accused French firms of being "insufficiently aggressive" in the British market, and very promising. Our firms should therefore be investing



Mr Barre with Mr Callaghan at Downing Street yesterday.

Burglars break into home of murdered prince

Broglie, north-west France, Jan 11—Burglars broke into the chateau of Prince Jean de Broglie, the murdered French politician, during the night, but apparently left empty-handed.

The prince's widow was reported to have found nothing missing in a preliminary check of the library, where the burglars had entered. They forced open a drawer and a small chest and set off an alarm which made them flee.

Police sources said that the burglars appeared to be well acquainted with the layout of the chateau—Agence France-Presse.

War crimes man moved to prison hospital

From Our Correspondent The Hague, Jan 11

Peter Meent, aged 78, the Dutch businessman facing charges of war crimes who was extradited from Switzerland, has been transferred from the Amsterdam House of Detention to the prison hospital at Scheveningen jail. He suffers from diabetes.

The Ministry of Justice said his condition was "not alarming at this moment." He is expected to face trial in March. Mr Meent has been questioned almost continuously since his extradition on December 22.

Farm Commissioner makes London his first stop

From David Cross Brussels, Jan 11

Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the newly appointed European Commissioner for agriculture, is to make London his first port of call as he prepares for the two most urgent issues facing the Community—the spring farm price review and fisheries negotiations.

Mr Gundelach, who arrives in London tomorrow, will meet Mr John Silkin, the Minister of Agriculture, and Dr David Owen, Minister of State at the Foreign Office responsible for European affairs. The main aim of the talks will be to discuss strategy for the forthcoming farm price and fisheries negotiations among the Nine.

Mr Silkin has made it clear in recent weeks that he favours freezing Community farm prices in the coming year and that he will continue to resist any Community attempts to devalue the so-called "green pound," the unit in which British farm prices are expressed. Devaluing the green pound would push up British food prices and could in Mr Silkin's view, jeopardize the Government's social contract with the trade unions.

On the fisheries issue, Dr Owen will be looking for fresh progress in the present Community negotiations with non-

member countries like Norway and Iceland, as well as a solution to the share-out of fish resources among the Nine in the Community's new 200-mile zone.

Negotiations on farm prices promise to be particularly difficult with consumer-oriented member states like Britain and West Germany probably seeking a virtual freeze and producer states like France and Ireland pushing for an average rise of at least 6.5 per cent.

Preparatory work already carried out by farm officials in the Commission suggests that farmers would need average rises of between 5 and 6 per cent to compensate them for cost increases in recent months.

Meanwhile, Britain's farming organizations, led by the National Farmers' Union, have been quick off the mark in making their presence felt with Mr Gundelach. In a long message sent to Brussels shortly after his appointment, Sir Henry Plumb, the NFU president, called for "resolute and vigorous action" to overcome the "formidable and complex problems" confronting member governments in the farm sector.

In a short reply published in Brussels today, Mr Gundelach said he had taken "careful note" of various points made by the NFU, which included an appeal for forthcoming price rises to take account of the substantial rise in agriculture costs during the past year.

Prince is found dead with head wounds

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Jan 11

Prince Jean-Félix de Merode, a scion of one of the most ancient families of Belgium, was found dead with head wounds this morning on the staircase of the block of flats where he lived in the Latin Quarter of Paris. The police said he had presumably been attacked on the stairs.

The body was discovered, lying in a pool of blood, at 6 a.m. The prince was coatless and had the keys of his flat in his hand. It was not clear whether he was robbed or that his flat was ransacked.

Prince Jean-Félix de Merode, aged 34, was a bachelor. He inherited the family seat and 5,000-acre property at Trélon, in the Ardennes, in 1974 on the death of his father, Prince Philippe de Merode. He only rarely visited it.

The origins of the Merode family go back to the twelfth century, when a son of the King of Aragon married a Merode. The family played a leading role in the history of Belgium.

One of the prince's ancestors was a hero of the Belgium revolution of 1830 against Holland. Another refused the regency on the creation of the kingdom of Belgium, and played a key role in the accession of Leopold I, whose minister he was for many years.

Jail term sought for banker

San Remo, Jan 11—The public prosecutor today demanded a 9,000-lire (56m) fine and two and half years' imprisonment for Carlo Aloisi, an Italian banker, charged with attempted currency smuggling.

Signor Aloisi, vice-president of the private bank Istituto Bancario Italiano, was arrested at the French border on December 30. The prosecutor said that customs officers had found proxy notes worth a total of 2,700 lire in his briefcase.

Reuters.

OVERSEAS

Dr Kaunda assures Mr Richard that guerrilla war will end once Salisbury regime is replaced

From Nicholas Ashford Lusaka, Jan 11

President Kaunda of Zambia has given an assurance that the guerrilla war in Rhodesia will be halted as soon as an interim government acceptable to all parties in the conflict is established in Salisbury.

Mr Ivor Richard, chairman of the recessed Rhodesian settlement talks, told a press conference today before leaving Lusaka for Dar es Salaam that he had received the assurance during a meeting with Dr Kaunda last night. The President had explained that this was the meaning of the final paragraph of the statement issued after last weekend's summit meeting in Lusaka of the five "front line" states.

The statement said that the removal of "colonialism, oppression and racism in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)" would create conditions for peace and justice and "inevitably bring to an end the armed struggle."

This assurance is probably the most important achievement of Mr Richard's mission to date and has once again produced an air of cautious optimism among his party.

Coming after the "front line" states have openly aligned themselves with the Patriotic Front, which controls the guerrilla armies based in Mozambique and Zambia, it is the firmest assurance that the guerrilla war will stop if the "front line" states

acceptable settlement terms can be agreed.

Whether Mr Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, and Mr Vorster, his South African counterpart, will accept such an assurance is another matter. Mr Richard said it was too early to assess what their attitude might be.

After his talks with President Nyerere in Dar es Salaam today Mr Richard is taking several days off to reflect on the progress of his mission before embarking on a new round of negotiations. He expects to visit again all of the six countries he called at during the first round of his shuttle as well as having further talks with the leaders of the Patriotic Front, Mr Robert Mugabe and Mr Joshua Nkomo.

This means that the present negotiations will not be completed until towards the end of this month at the earliest and that the resumption of the Geneva talks will inevitably have to be delayed.

The main problem now facing him is how to establish some common ground between the Patriotic Front and Mr Smith's Government. So far neither side has shown any outward sign of shifting from its original position set out at the Geneva conference.

However, Mr Richard thought he had detected some movement on both sides. "I think there are signs that negotiations are possible," he said.

The "front line" states

declared support for the Patriotic Front has been received in Rhodesia and

But Mr Richard did not regard this as an additional hurdle to his mission. By supporting one particular organization the states would be able to leverage greater leverage than would over a proliferated rival groups.

Our Nairobi Correspondent writes: Mr Richard has been meeting with President Nyerere of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam this evening. He afterwards said that Dr Kaunda had assured that the guerrilla war in Rhodesia would end once a stable interim government was set up.

Our Political Staff writes: reconvening of the Geneva conference planned for Monday is being deferred to Croissant, Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, announced a written parliamentary statement.

He said Mr Richard was pressing on with his mission in Africa and the conference would convene as he had established upon which it could meet a good prospect of success.

Mr John Davies, the Foreign Secretary, later pressed deep disappointment over the postponement. He had been seeking a meeting with Mr Croissant urge him to adopt "a determined and vigorous approach."

Accused mission priest feared for his life

From Michael Knipe Salisbury, Jan 11

Father Paul Egli, a Swiss-born Roman Catholic priest, has pleaded guilty in Bulawayo to five counts of failing to report to the police the names of guerrillas harboured and helping them.

According to an agreed statement of facts, on one occasion in October, a group of guerrillas made speeches to the assembled pupils and staff of Father Egli's mission school at Berea, in the Chibhira tribal trust land south of Fort Victoria. Father Egli also made a speech and said the Lord's Prayer. The guerrillas then danced and sang before leaving with a supply of food.

In a statement made after being warned and cautioned by the police, the 45-year-old priest, who has been in Rhodesia 17 years, said: "I agree I have had knowledge of guerrillas and their activities, but I have not reported them to the police. I have assisted them in various ways, including providing them with food and shelter."

Father Egli then described one visit by the guerrillas to the school when 350 pupils were assembled with the staff near the mission's swimming pool. He estimated that there were between 10 and 12 in the group and they impressed on him that to report them would mean certain death.

"I know I have assisted guerrillas but never actively or willingly. I think we would have done the same for the Army if demanded or forced to." Father Egli's statement said. He had no faith in the Government security forces to provide adequate protection.

Rhodesian troops exchanged gunfire today with armed men across the border with Botswana, according to a Rhodesian security forces communiqué.

There has been tension on the border for some months because of the activities of African nationalist guerrillas. One shot was fired yesterday from Botswana at a Rhodesian military position, but the Rhodesians did not retaliate.

Today, the communiqué went on, Rhodesian forces observed a buildup within Botswana of armed men at a kraal opposite their position. Later small arms and automatic fire was directed from Botswana at two Rhodesian officers' and the Rhodesian forces retaliated.

Press kept away from Ciskei camp

From Our Correspondent Johannesburg, Jan 11

At least a third of a 30,000 African refugees in the Transkei living in make camps in the Ciskei Bantu have been inoculated or vaccinated, it was claimed today. At the same time the Ciskei administration banned reporters from the area.

Yesterday, officials admitted that the mortality rate, among infants, from gastroenteritis and other pox related diseases, was running around five a day. Unofficial estimates were that 300 people had died in the camps in past three months.

Dr Barbara Seidler, the qualified medical practitioner in the area, is in charge of a team of 28 African nurses working round the clock from a mission hospital at nearby Thaba. She declined to comment on the death toll.

There are between 30,000 and 50,000 people in the camp and the Ciskei administration which has the responsibility maintaining public health in the area, just does not have facilities to cope.

Senator angers black Carter appointee

From Fred Emery Washington, Jan 11

Confirmation hearings by the Senate committee of Mr Carter's Cabinet appointees got under way in a rush today in an attempt to have all the Cabinet approved by the time Mr Carter is sworn in on Thursday week.

There have already been some fireworks. Mrs Patricia Harris, nominated for Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, has partly reminded Senator William Proxmire of her origins. Just because she now worked for a leading Washington law firm did not mean she had forgotten them, she told the senator, who had asked whether she could still identify with the underprivileged.

"Senator, I am one of them," she snapped. "You do not seem to understand who I am. I am a black woman, the daughter of a dining car waiter. I am a black woman who could not buy a house eight years ago in parts of the District of Columbia."

She added that she also remembered being excluded from Senate dining rooms. The greatest attention has focused on Mr Carter's nominee for Attorney General, Mr Griffin Bell, a former Federal Appeals Court judge from Atlanta. His hearing was broadcast live on radio and television today as he sought to defuse the torrent of criticism being prepared by civil rights organizations.

Mr Bell's peach-in-the-mouth thick Georgia accent and style makes Mr Carter sound like a Yankee. But he defended his self well, and managed a min coup by disclosing that he appointing a black man to the next Solicitor General Washington, Jan 11.

Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State-designate and one of America's leading policymakers during the Indo-China war, to the Senate foreign relations committee today that it united States had learnt from its mistakes in Vietnam.

"In the light of hindsight, believe it was a mistake to intervene in Vietnam. However we have learnt a number of lessons as a result of the Vietnam experience," he said. Vance was received enthusiastically by committee members and then indicated that his nomination would be overwhelmingly approved. Reuters.

Objection in church as a lesbian is ordained

From Peter Stafford New York, Jan 11

An objection was raised in a New York church last night when Ellen Barrett, an avowed lesbian, was ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church of the American branch of the Anglican Communion.

The Rev James Wackley, an Episcopal priest, stood up when Bishop Paul Moore, conducting the ordination, asked the formal question whether anyone knew any impediment or crime which should prevent ordination.

Mr Wackley walked to the altar and told the congregation that he opposed Miss Barrett's ordination "on the ground of her self-proclaimed lesbianism."

CIA adds fuel to defence debate

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, Jan 11

When there was none to be had in the nuclear age. He could be seen to be at odds with the outgoing Defence Secretary. Speaking in New York, Mr Donald Rumsfeld called for prompt action if the United States was to reverse Soviet trends towards superiority which he detected over the past 15 years.

President-elect Carter arrives tonight among the protagonists for more briefing, on national security and foreign policy both with the specialists and with congressmen, as a final prelude to his inauguration on Thursday week.

He has already suggested that too much fuss is being made by Mr Cyrus Vance, his designated Secretary of State, has suggested that both sides have vari-

Judge reaffirms man's right to keep his legs

From Our Own Correspondent New York, Jan 11

A judge in New York ruled that a man cannot be required to have his legs amputated against his will. Justice Elida Schwartz said yesterday: "A most important consideration is the fact of the one who will be affected by the choice, whether he is a patient himself."

The patient is Mr O Simmons, a 58-year-old vagabond whose feet had become infected with gangrene. The hospital told him that he would have to have both legs amputated, but he refused.

Four more prisoners flee as Italian jail crisis worsens

From Our Correspondent Rome, Jan 11

While wardens of Rome's Rebibbia jail stayed in their barracks today in protest against a shortage of staff, four inmates of a Benevento prison, to the south, escaped in the fourth jailbreak this year.

The 350 wardens confined themselves to barracks all last night and today, leaving only two on duty, to support their complaint that there are not enough of them to guard prisoners, check parcels and supervise visits, the means by which firearms and escape aids

often find their way into the jails.

The situation is similar in nearly all Italian prisons, and the point was underlined by the four Benevento prisoners, who escaped undisturbed by the traditional method of sawing through the bars of their window and scaling the outside wall by means of a home-made ladder and knotted sheets.

Altogether 25 prisoners have escaped from Italian jails this year and 23 of them are still at large. Signor Andreotti, the Prime Minister, has indicated that recent jail reforms giving

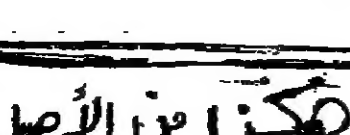
prisoners greater freedom to telephone home, receive visits and parcels and go on leave, may have to be suspended.

The situation in the jails is only one aspect of the present crisis in the Italian justice system which, the chief public prosecutor at the Rome Appeal Court reported, is even worse in the capital. Ninety-five per cent of crimes committed in Rome go unpunished, Dr Piero Pascualino said, compared to 75 per cent for the country.

He gave warning that justice in Rome would soon be completely paralysed if something

was not done. The backlog of cases was such that each magistrate dealing with minor offences had an average of 604 cases pending. Each new case, which should be heard within two weeks, was unlikely to come up for more than a year.

Dr Pascualino recalled that until recently the situation was periodically alleviated by amnesties, a system no longer acceptable. He said many crimes went unpunished now because the period in which they could be prosecuted had expired under the statute of limitations.



Richard Zech dissidents freed but requested report for questioning

Our Own Correspondent
Prague, Jan 11

The intellectuals detained in the Czechoslovak dissident movement were released at midnight, but requested a report for questioning.

The release of the dissidents was a surprise move by the authorities. The dissidents, who had been held in the Prague prison since the 1968 invasion, were released after a long period of negotiations. The release was seen as a sign of a new approach towards the dissident movement.

The dissidents, who were released at midnight, were asked to provide a report for questioning. The report was to be submitted to the authorities by the morning. The dissidents were given a deadline of 24 hours to complete the report.

The release of the dissidents was a significant event in the Czechoslovak dissident movement. It was seen as a sign of a new approach towards the dissident movement. The release was a surprise move by the authorities.

After four years of war Muslim rebels settle for autonomous region A precarious peace comes to the Philippines

From Teodoro Benigno
Manila, Jan 11

The guns have fallen silent in the southern Philippines where the Government and the Muslim rebels will shortly end a four-year war. A precarious peace comes to the Philippines.

The peace agreement was signed in Manila on January 11, 1977. The agreement was signed between the Government and the Muslim rebels. The agreement was a significant event in the Philippines.

The agreement was signed after four years of war. The war was a significant event in the Philippines. The agreement was a sign of a new approach towards the Muslim rebels.

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President Marcos: He wants a plebiscite.



Colonel Gaddafi: The rebels' chief backer.

Battle over secrecy of 'think tank' report

By David Sparler
Diplomatic Correspondent

A sharp little battle is being waged in the upper echelons of the civil service over whether the public should be allowed to see the controversial report now being completed by the "Think Tank" on the foreign services.

The report, which is expected to be finished after some delays, by March, seems certain to set a lot of people in Whitehall. The Foreign Office, as the department most closely affected, is naturally apprehensive about it.

In its preparatory stages, the report has been guarded with a certain secrecy. While some senior officials are in favour of full publication, some MPs and others are afraid that more cautious counsel will prevail to keep it most challenging recommendations hidden.

According to what little information has percolated through the official screen, there is a strong move within the "Think Tank" team to back a "maximalist" reorganization of the Foreign Office. This means not expanding the Foreign Office's staff, but widening its membership by bringing in experts from home departments to do the specialist jobs in trade, export promotion, defence and so forth.

Press kept away from Ciskei

From Our Own Correspondent
Cape Town, Jan 11

The press was kept away from the Ciskei region in South Africa. The press was kept away from the Ciskei region in South Africa.

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Lockheed's agent in Turkey is arrested

From Sinan Fisek
Ankara, Jan 11

An Ankara tribunal today arrested Mr. Nezir Dural, a businessman who is the Lockheed Aircraft Company's representative in Turkey, on charges of currency fraud.

The arrest was a significant event in Turkey. The arrest was a sign of a new approach towards the Lockheed Aircraft Company's representative in Turkey.

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Last minute reprieve for monks

By David Watts

Two monks of the Indian Ananda Marga sect, who were due to be deported yesterday, got a last minute reprieve when lawyers filed an application for a writ of prohibition before the Divisional Court in London, claiming "malice" on the part of Mr. Rees, the Home Secretary.

The monks had been ordered to leave the country by the Home Secretary. The monks had been ordered to leave the country by the Home Secretary.

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Higher fares and dearer luxury goods balance selective Soviet price cuts

From Edmund Stevens
Moscow, Jan 11

Travel by air, boat or taxi will cost more in the Soviet Union after April 1. Air and boat fares are expected to go up about 20 per cent, and taxi fares will double from 10 kopeks (about 8p) to 20 kopeks a kilometre.

The increases were included in a list of price changes announced by the State Commission on Prices. Other increases, on rugs and carpets, natural silk items, crystal ware, deluxe book editions and clothes made to order, came into effect immediately.

Prices were cut by up to 25 per cent on certain items of synthetic fabrics, including knitwear and undergarments, stockings, smaller refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, certain makes of tape recorders, recording tape, electric shavers, radios, and a black and white television set.

The reduced items were mostly of a quality for which there has been little demand, and even the price cuts have yet to attract a rush of buyers.

Few people want the smaller refrigerators now that larger ones are available. Those who can manage it, generally prefer Japanese recorders to local ones.

Official apologists have always claimed the Soviet economy was immune from Western-type inflation. This is true in that retail prices of certain essentials in state shops, notably bread, flour, sugar, potatoes and cereals, have remained fixed for long periods. Meat in state butchers has been pegged since Mr. Khrushchev raised the price "temporarily" by 30 per cent in 1962.

Moscow Metro underground fares have remained level at five kopeks. Rents are still basically at 1928 rates.

But Mr. Glushkov, while insisting there was no inflation, justified heavy price increases on such gourmet foods as caviar and sturgeon, and on other luxury items on the ground that they helped make up for the state subsidies (19,000 rubles in 1975) holding down the cost of meat, dairy products and bread.

He added that the state pays out 5,000m rubles annually to meet the deficit on rents, and that it expects to continue these subsidies.

Despite the denials, the Soviet economy is definitely influenced by inflation in its non-communist trading partners, which adds to the cost of imports. This in turn helps account for the sharp increase in Soviet indebtedness to Western governments and to private banks and creditors.

At present, there is no attempt to regulate prices on the so-called free market, where collective farmers sell foodstuffs privately, and on which prices have tended to spiral steadily. Mr. Glushkov claimed that the market was an almost negligible factor: most housewives would strongly disagree.

Along with fare increases Aeroflot, the state airline, announced that it would introduce first and economy classes on its internal flights. Such a "class system" has long operated on international Aeroflot flights, but hitherto there have been no such distinctions inside the Soviet Union.

Parties form united front for Pakistan election

From Our Correspondent
Rawalpindi, Jan 11

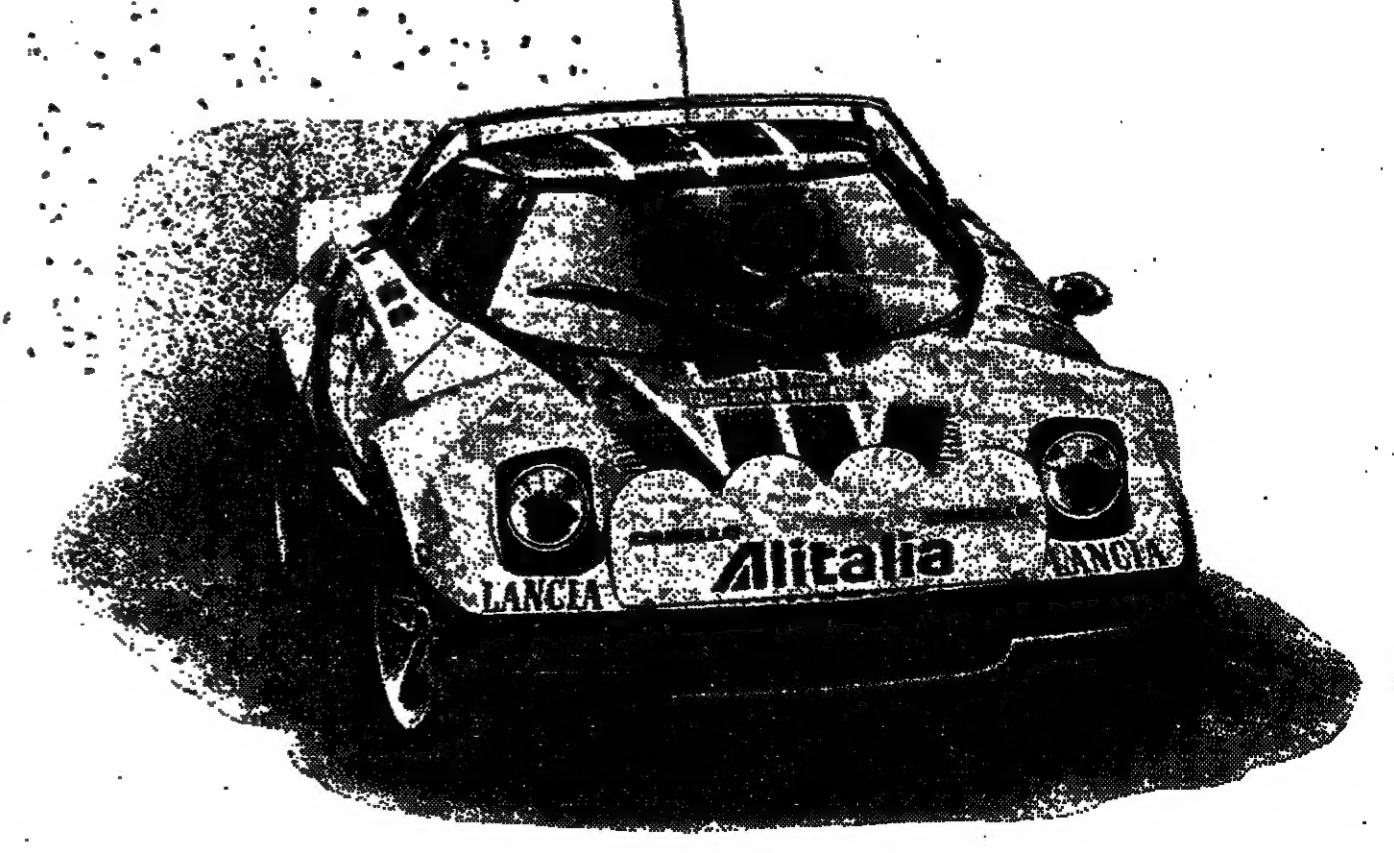
Nine opposition parties in Pakistan have decided to contest the general elections in March as a united front.

The parties, which include the National Awami Party, the Awami League, the Muslim League, the National Front, the National Democratic Party, the National People's Party, the National United Front, the National United Front, and the National United Front, have decided to contest the general elections in March as a united front.

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Cuban 'school for spies' exposed

John Best
London, Jan 11

A spokesman for the department of state, said investigations had shown that "an intelligence operation was conducted in Canada involving Cuban nationals in contradiction of their status."

The investigation began after Mr. David Bufkin, aged 40, an American mercenary in Rhodesia, told the Salisbury Sunday Mail that he had been trained as a spy at the consulate by a man called Rodriguez.

Once in Rhodesia he double-crossed the Cubans and revealed his background and identified two other spies from the "school" who had joined the Rhodesian army.

40 suspected saboteurs held in Lebanon

Beirut, Jan 11 (censored)

Troops of the Arab League peacekeeping force in Lebanon have arrested 40 people suspected of kidnapping, murder and planting bombs.

The arrests follow last week's car bomb explosion outside the headquarters of the right-wing Phalangist Party's security service in which 42 people were killed.

According to the newspaper Al-Akhar, the authorities are planning to impose the death penalty on saboteurs and kidnappers. The paper said they would be tried by field courts and executed if found guilty.

Meanwhile, a delegation of the leftist independent Nasserite movement (Mourabitoun) called on President Sarkis to discuss the problem of collecting heavy weapons used in the 19-month civil war here.

A delegation spokesman, Mr. Samir Sabbagh, said afterwards that Mr. Sarkis was determined to treat Lebanon's rival factions equally over the issue.—Reuter.

Argentina trade improves

From Our Correspondent
Buenos Aires, Jan 11

Señor Alberto Fraguio, Foreign Trade Secretary at the Economy Ministry, today revealed provisional figures for 1976 showing a notable improvement in Argentina's foreign trade since the military government took over.

He said exports in 1976 reached nearly \$4,000m (\$2,350m) compared with just over \$3,000m in 1975, the last full year of Peronist rule.

The Señor Fraguio said, had resulted in a foreign trade surplus of more than \$800m, compared with a deficit in 1975 of some \$1,000m. He said detailed statistics would be issued at the end of January.

World plan to popularize vasectomies

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, Jan 11

The growing importance of voluntary sterilization in family planning was emphasized by delegates from about 20 countries at the general assembly here of the World Federation of Associations for Voluntary Sterilization.

The federation says that worldwide, this is now the most common method of contraception: an estimated 65 million people are sterilized, compared to 55 million using temporary contraceptives, mainly the pill.

Efforts will now be directed to popularizing vasectomy. Men now comprise no more than 10 per cent of people undergoing sterilization, although, for the male, the operation is simpler and involving going to hospital.

According to Dr. Michael Altman, founder and chairman of the Vasectomy Advancement Society, London, male sterilization is increasing rapidly in Britain.

Dr. Ira Lubell, executive director of the American association, pointed out that the population growth rate in China is now almost zero as a result of promotion of sterilization.

Bank spaces in Lanka's nosed press

Colombo, Jan 11—Several papers in Sri Lanka started today with columns blank space after the introduction of censorship last night.

References to strikes in the services and to any action by the authorities to restrain the services were deleted.

Twenty more people were arrested today in connection with a continuing bus strike, bringing the number of people arrested to 58.

The chairman of the Ceylon Transport Board accused them of inciting bus employees to a strike and threatening to close the bus operating.

Side unions are poised to a general strike tomorrow, as workers already on strike in the railways, bus services and clerical and allied services.

Foreign correspondents' reports were not subject to censorship, but postal authorities said to be scrutinizing for "objectionable" material.—Agence France-Presse.

nya check-up
London, Jan 11.—Mr. Fred said, the British Defence spy, left for home today after four days in Kenya during which he visited a training area by the British Army.

Why virginity is becoming fashionable once more



Novelist
Barbara Cartland writes this week's
guest column

It should have been obvious to anyone who had studied human behaviour that the downward trend to pornography would be followed by an upsurge to romance. Yet the Romantic Age which began two years ago took writers, composers, publishers, theatrical and film producers by surprise.

Walt Disney said: "Every time they make a pornographic film I make money" and I am convinced that every time women look at vulgar, filthy, degrading pornography they buy a Barbara Cartland.

In the past two years the sales of my novels have leapt into astronomical figures and have now reached 70 million. Twenty-six new novels will appear in Britain this year. I am a best seller in Europe, North America and also in Turkey, Singapore, India, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. Why? Because all my heroines are virgins.

The demand is not surprising in the East where men have always insisted and expected their women to be pure, but this wild enthusiasm from the West is unprecedented.

About 15 years ago, publishers told their romantic authors that they should go "modern" and write about divorce and "sanctified love". I refused. "I was brought up in the Twenties", I said. "We were innocent and there was no question of popping in and out of bed promiscuously. I am not disputing that today it happens—I just do not think it is romantic!" With the result that when the romantic boom burst, I had more than 150 virgins in print!

"It's very untrue to life and modern thought", the critics scoff. But is it? I have yet to meet a man who did not want his wife to be different to the "good-time" girls with whom he amuses himself. I have yet to talk to a woman who doesn't long for an overwhelming, ecstatic love from a man who worships her as his ideal and his inspiration.

It is the idealised woman which every man puts in a secret shrine and worships as his wife, as the mother of his children, as his guide and inspiration.

However much "Women's Lib" may talk of equality of the sexes, it is, as it happens, medically impossible for men

and women to be equal when it comes to sex. A man can "make love" without it being anything but a physical action. It can mean no more to him than a good or bad meal and is as quickly forgotten.

For a woman, however, however brief, however light-hearted, means an emotional involvement which is both physical and mental. This is why to "sleep about" affects a woman's character and personality.

I know and understand the difficulties which confront the modern girl when a man asks and expects her to go to bed with him for the first or second time they meet. If I refuse, "one girl told me miserably," he says, "he won't ask me out again!" This means that the girl is giving herself in return for a dinner or a dance. Surely a very cheap form of prostitution?

"Everybody does it" is the most insidious form of corruption to which far too many foolish young women fall victim. It is a trap to which every man who says "do" has a mother who has said to him: "Nice girls don't!"

There is no doubt that deep in the heart of every woman is a yearning to be courted and wooed. Perhaps it is a throw-back to the time when women were worshipped as a goddess by all the ethnic groups from whom our own civilisation grew.

Personally I want to be loved, adored, worshipped, cosseted and protected. Judging by the Romantic boom, this is what "modern" girls want. I am quite sure that I am quite sure that what eventually they will get. The pendulum will swing as it always does and in five to 10 years' time, it will be fashionable to be a virgin.

It is then we will go back to high standards, noble ideals and decency. They all begin on a foundation of female chastity. The reason we have pornography at all is entirely due to women failing to do their job as the guardians of morals.

Men, since the beginning of time, have been the hunters, the providers, the protectors, the masters in their own houses and of their own women. They have also been allowed to be selfish, profligate and licentious, should it please them. There were invariably enough Lilliths to assist them.

But what a man has looked for in his mistresses in the past is quite different to what he has required of his wife. Only in this generation have there been no barriers and little difference between the two.

Yet the change is coming, and with the swing back to romance, promiscuity, like the crude vulgarity of pornography which degrades women, inevitably becomes out of date. When one cannot go any lower, he becomes more and more virtuous and virtuous replaces evil.

The whole process is symbolized by the image employed in every legend, that of the Virgin. It is not only an attribute of the body, it is a state of mind.

In their efforts to be free, modern and the equals of men, women have thrown away not only their virginity but also their mystique. This is something which has motivated them into creating beauty in music, prose, verse and art. It is women who inspired the great masterpieces in every known culture and the most ecstatic and ethereal building in the world, the Temple of Love.

The reason why we live today in a dull, drab, mediocre universe containing few geniuses and fewer personalities, is to be found in the very inferior women produced by the last two generations.

Where do we find Simonetta Vesputi, who gave us Botticelli's Venus; a Beatrice who inspired Dante's most famous works; Mary Queen of Scots, the Dark Lady of Shakespeare's sonnets; and a young Elizabeth the Virgin Queen, to make England great again?

We can make a million excuses and give endless explanations for the scarcity of women who inspired Dante's most famous works; Mary Queen of Scots, the Dark Lady of Shakespeare's sonnets; and a young Elizabeth the Virgin Queen, to make England great again?

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Writers can find more than one way of portraying 'multi-ethnic' Britain

Last month Collins, the publishers, announced "a new campaign to find children's books that reflect the experience of living in multi-ethnic Britain". The only manoeuvre which they have so far made in this engagement is to offer a couple of prizes, one for a novel or work of non-fiction, and one for short stories, which "portray the variety and complexity of our society". (Anticipating the results, they also remark that "the winning entries will probably reflect the lives of individual ethnic groups in Britain but it is hoped that as books they will prove popular and relevant to all children".)

Naturally the project has won immediate approval from all those who believe in the therapeutic efficacy of writing books for children about the present lives they lead, but it ought to gain a welcome, too, from the sceptics who see such promotions as encouraging only pallid answers to contrived problems. The reason why these spoilsports should welcome the initiative of Messrs Collins is primarily because the campaign may force upon therapists and sceptics alike the need to think about what is meant by phrases like "multi-ethnic Britain" and to assess how fit a medium children's books are for reflecting its variety and complexity (let alone doing so in a way that is "popular and relevant").

On the first score, one is immediately tempted to call in Mr Philip Howard and his shelf of dictionaries to clarify for us where the multiplicity of our ethnic begins and ends. According to my sources (Gr. *ethnos* = nation) "multi-ethnic Britain" could legitimately be interpreted as not just a Britain of many races (ie, "multi-racial")—which is presumably what Collins really mean—but a Britain of many tribes or, possibly, of many religious groups. In other words—as with that even worse bit of modern jargon "multi-cultural"—theoretical boundaries begin to disappear in practice and it becomes increasingly difficult to posit how authentic portrayals can be managed. Will books about Scottish, or Welsh, or Cornish minority groups be eligible along-

side those about Harare, Cyprus or Eritrea? Court Australians? If Muslims and Sikhs are definable, communities within Britain why should not a modern definition of "ethnic" admit Jewish Communities too?

Certainly, on the evidence of work done by one of my students on Jewish children's books, it would seem that those who look for "social issues" in children's literature have allowed their sights to rest too exclusively on urban groups of different skin-colour. Furthermore they have given precious little consideration to the relationship between home-culture and the extra-territorial cultures which it absorbs. Everyone admits that English tradition has been constantly enriched by immigrant influences, but how essential is it (and how urgent?) that immigrant groups accommodate themselves to the majestic variety and complexity of the indigenous tradition rather than forming isolated fiefdoms of their own?

Needless to say, attempts to answer these questions lead one into areas where the conventional limitations of "children's books" inhibit thorough discussion. No better example could be found at the present moment than Farrukh Dhoody's *East End At Your Feet* which has recently been published in Macmillan's "Topline" series—paperbacks which are broadly planned to meet the needs of readers who don't much care about reading.

East End At Your Feet is a collection of six short stories featuring characters from Asian communities in London, and it is in the news at the moment because a lady from Blackheath has accused it of being obscene and thereby of offending her daughter who read it at school. Her objection seems to be chiefly to the language of the book and the fact has been answered by both the school's headmistress (who notes that some parents complain about Chaucer) and the Topline's editor, Mr Aidan Chambers. He admits that the book is explicit, but considers it responsible so, and he justifies it in part by reference to the Collins campaign and the need for realistic stories about the experience of living in multi-ethnic Britain. There is no doubt at all that Mr Chambers's defence of *East End* is entirely valid. The author's use of language deemed to be offensive is sanctioned by the require-

ments of his stories; while, in terms of what actually happens, Farrukh Dhoody is a model of good taste compared with some of the indelicately assertive sex stories for teenagers emanating from the United States.

In a sense, therefore, the Blackheath lady's objection to *East End At Your Feet* is a naive one, and it would be unfortunate if the impression were to be given that Asian writers were setting out to corrupt the pristine purity of our children's literature. At the same time, though, it directs attention to the difficulty of trying to harmonize the social and artistic aims of writing books. For while part of Mr Dhoody's intention may well be to show children of an ethnic group settling, or not settling, into life in urban Britain he cannot probe too deeply the terms on which that life is lived for fear of carrying the book beyond the capacity of its readers. Whatever Messrs Collins may think, the subtle questions of family loyalty, double standards, personal integrity, which Farrukh Dhoody raises are not easily solved in a child's book with a contemporary setting. As with a whole gamut of other "problems" which rejoice the hearts of people who write for series like "Topline", the issues may often be less well served by artifice than by silence.

Looking at one of the first children's books to be published in 1977—Rosemary Sutcliffe's *Blood Feud* (Oxford UP, £2.95) I was much struck by the force which she has been able to give to the fictional treatment of persistent dilemmas simply by giving them historical distance. The story is not quite vintage Sutcliffe—it wears its research a little too obtrusively—but, in picking an English hero of the tenth century who becomes slave and then blood-brother to a Viking and who finally marries a Byzantine lady, it brings forward fundamental questions about personality which it can answer freely within the narrative, and which do not lose their emotional force by trying to meet some barely achievable canon of contemporary authenticity. Miss Sutcliffe may not intend it, but she has much to say on "multi-ethnic" matters. What a pity that Messrs Collins would probably find such an approach irrelevant or unauthentic.

Brian Alderson

Law Report January 11 1977

Employment Appeal Tribunal

Taking part in strikes as factor in selecting men for redundancy

Crickshaw and Others v Hobbs

Before Mr Justice Cumming-Bruce, Mr R. V. Cooper and Mr J. Lauchie

[Judgment delivered January 10]

When an employer is selecting employees for redundancy, the fact that certain employees have been on strike may be relevant to the selection, though its weight may be negligible.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal, by a majority, dismissed appeals by Mr Raymond Crickshaw and four other stable lads of Newmarket against a decision of an industrial tribunal sitting at Bury St Edmunds that they were dismissed by reason of redundancy and were not unfairly dismissed. The five had been employed by Mr Bruce Hobbs, a trainer of Newmarket.

Mr James Malachy and Mr David Barnard for the appellants; Mr Edward Clague for Mr Hobbs. The industrial tribunal was composed of three lay members and a chairman, Mr Justice Cumming-Bruce.

MR JUSTICE CUMMING-BRUCE said that Mr Hobbs had employed the appellants for various periods, the longest being about five years. He was in favour of the Transport and General Workers Union, which looked after the interests of the stable lads of Newmarket, and virtually all his staff of 38 were members of that union.

In 1975 Mr Hobbs paid his stable lads £38 basic a week, compared with a rate of £32 which he was unwilling to negotiate with the Newmarket Trainers' Federation. On May 1 an official strike was called and on May 2 Mr Hobbs's men came out on strike and stayed out until the strike ended on July 23.

At the strike, the number of horses in the stables fell, mainly due to the economic situation, and at the end of the strike, the number of stable lads was fewer than before. Mr Hobbs had been considering for some time that he might have to make some selection of his staff, but he was not sure what to do. He took back one of the strikers as his work as a lather was still available and made the other five strikers redundant.

The Appeal Tribunal had to decide whether the dismissals were fair. It was not a case of redundancy as defined by the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974.

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Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

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Bernard Levin

Enough of this crew: are there not ten just men to scupper the lot?

"Sometimes" says the disgruntled man in the Thirder cartoon to his wife, "the news from Washington makes me think that your mother and brother Ed are in charge." And sometimes the news from Westminster makes me think that Mr Callaghan, Mr Healey, Mr Foot, Mr Hattersley and the Labour Party's NEC are in charge, together with a rudimentary simulacrum of Mr Mulley, created in a clandestine laboratory by a mad scientist obsessed by the challenge inherent in the sheer difficulty of doing such a thing and unwilling even now to admit that it cannot be done.

But is there not something fascinating and hilarious, amid the sheer awfulness on the one hand and the rage provoked by the knowledge that it is our country that these clowns are destroying on the other, in the limitless series of *cocasseries* that now passes for government? There was widespread comment, when Parliament finally reeled away for the Christmas recess, to the effect that the break would enable our leaders to straighten out at any rate some of the sub-messes being dragged like tawls behind the principal ones, to reinvigorate themselves sufficiently to face, if not to solve, the problems piling inexorably up like waves, to do something, or even anything, to make the Prime Minister's famous complacency less obviously inexplicable on any hypothesis other than one postulating a total euphoric state.

And what has happened? Things have actually managed to get worse! The nervous folly that has been running through the Cabinet like the head of a snake, the folly that has broken into a gallop, indeed, there is powerful evidence that the horses have altogether bolted. Take Mr Hattersley, for instance. Only yesterday he was spreading the butter on himself with a spatula large enough to hold two tons at a time, and leaping, thus anointed, into the centre of the stage, to tell the nation that, thanks to his cunning, negotiating skill, relentless devotion to the cause of the family shopping-basket and generally overwhelming claim to be the next Prime Minister but one, the price of bread was about to fall so fast and so far that every shop in the land, from the big-

gest supermarket to the tiniest one-man bakery, would be paying the customers enormous sums of money to come and take the stuff away, and even providing wheeled barrows to enable them to do so. Nay, Jack Cade himself could hardly have promised more.

There shall be in England seven halfpenny loaves sold for a penny; the three-hooped pot shall have three hoops; and I will make it felony to drink small beer. All the realm shall be in common, and when I am king there shall be no money; all shall eat and drink on my score; and I will apparel them all in new liveries, that every man shall agree like brothers, and worship me their lord.

And then? Why, then he starts to blurt that it wasn't his fault, that it's all the doing of the delivery-men and their union, that if we will all hang on a bit longer and be ready to start ourselves to do it, he gives the word it will all come right. Yet it is not the job of a minister to prevent or avoid the kind of perfectly foreseeable chaos that Mr Hattersley has created? Could not the attitude and intentions of the delivery-men have been ascertained in advance? What does he suppose that we pay him £13,000 a year for?

But the reason I draw attention to this fiasco is not just that I want to see Mr Hattersley; it is to offer further evidence that the disintegration of the Government is proceeding at an accelerating pace, and that Mr Callaghan's assurance that there will be no general election in 1977, should that assurance be struck with a blunt instrument (Mr Shore's head, perhaps) would now give off a hollow sound. And much the same conclusion must be drawn from the activities of several of Mr Hattersley's colleagues.

There is Mr Foot. Never mind his views for the moment; there will be time enough to consider them. But is there anything to match, for ineptitude, his conduct as Leader of the House of Commons? That, of course, is a question that could have been asked ever since he got the job; but it must be asked rather more urgently today in the light of the revelations about the Rent (Agriculture) Act, passed and promulgated in a form which does not correspond with what Parli-

The nerveless folly that has been running through the Cabinet like the influenza has now broken into a gallop...

ment enacted. And why? Because, as Mr Hugh Rossi (who raised the matter) pointed out, an amendment which had come back from the Lords, and which was accepted by the Government, was put before the House of Commons in a form that was gibberish, and in that form had been "passed". And I put that word in quotation marks because in fact the House of Commons did not even see, let alone discuss, the item in question; Mr Foot was busy using the guillotine (it was only parliamentary democracy that was involved, after all), and he can hardly be expected to bother with seeing that Parliament passes measures that make sense, and if he cannot even attend to an entirely formal and simple matter like that, is it any wonder that the parliamentary timetable, which is also his job, which requires genuine skill, is visibly collapsing?

Meanwhile, the NEC, fresh from insisting on the insertion into the Labour Party administrative machinery of a man cheerfully and to general astonishment known as Mr Foot, has been determined to bring into existence a form of society that would make all such machinery, and indeed political parties and Parliament itself, unnecessary (from much of the talk about "revolution", anybody would think that Trotsky was some kind of democrat), are now demanding the abolition of the Second Chamber (preparatory, no doubt, to abolishing the First), and I have no doubt that Mr Callaghan will respond to this in much the same way as he responded to the previous NEC proposal to nationalize the banks and insurance companies. That is, he will be heard muttering to himself

for an hour or two, towards the end of which a few phrases will become coherent and audible. From these we shall learn that the principle is, of course, perfectly right and proper, and no member of the Labour Party could seriously dissent from it, but the press of intended legislation—devolution, you know—does make it difficult to see how it could be put in hand immediately, and then again, a good deal of discussion and consultation is essential before any legislation could be devised at all, so that on the whole, and of course with the warmest expressions of good will towards the proposal, which he certainly hopes and intends to see carried through in due course, it really will have to wait.

And for this we saw Harold Wilson pass, and welcomed a man whom we thought could at any rate be expected to know what principles were, even if he did not much go in for acting by them. I suppose I am being a little hard on him, but the way in which he has handled the proposal, the way in which he has handled the real dangers and evils that threaten her. We are exactly the same country as we have been, except that we are now more thousands of millions of pounds in debt. Enough! Enough of a crew that combines men and women who have forgotten what patriotism means with others who never knew! Enough of government by cheating and dodging. Enough of ignoring the terrible dangers in the hope that the country can be prevented from noticing them long enough for those who ignore them to creep back into office. Enough of the whole pack of them—Mrs Williams as well as Mr Benn, Mr Mason as well as Mr Shore, Mr Dell as well as Mr Crosland. This must be the year in which 10 just men are sent to Sedbury, 10 men in the Parliamentary Labour Party who will vote to bring the Government down without first making sure that there is no danger of their succeeding in doing so.

If it is now, 'tis not to come; if it is not to come, it will be now; if it is not now, yet it will come; the readiness is all. Are there really not 10 men on that side of the House of Commons to speak for England?

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Self-help in action: the voluntary group Contact brings comfort to pensioners.

Let the welfare state help those who help themselves

Thirty years ago the welfare state was like a phoenix out of the ashes of the Second World War. To many it symbolized the dawning of a new era, a panacea for all evils with benefits for all. Even if it may not have quite fulfilled all expectations, none the less it has satisfied a wide area of need and provided services to a large number of people. But as it developed it started to encroach on a number of points in our daily lives, so much so that an increasing number of people are now dependent on support from "the welfare" and cannot determine their own destiny without outside help.

The main function of a welfare state is to provide a safety net for social casualties, and special provisions for those who can no longer look after themselves through physical or mental disability. Yet as state provision has intervened into more areas of our daily lives, it has robbed people of any logical reason as to why they should fend for themselves. Independence and initiative have been sapped, weakening the character. Many have now lost any sense of obligation either to themselves or to others. As a result of shifting the load of responsibility from family to state shoulders, people have become more inclined to opt out. By diverting a sense of obligation towards one's family, the state has undermined the foundations of our society.

This point was made tellingly by Prince Philip in a speech last month, when he pointed out that individual excellence had been levelled down into a world of generalities by the welfare state.

This is as much the fault of misdirected state philanthropy as the misguided response of government to the clamour from minority groups demanding increased provisions. It is not surprising that successive governments have grown up to believe that government helps those who shout loudest and longest.

In the mid-sixties the parameters of the welfare state reached their limits. By 1969 local authorities were unable to find sufficient funds to put into effect the provisions of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Act. A year later the Chronically Sick and Disabled Act instructed local authorities to find and help the physically handicapped. This has been implemented by only a handful of authorities. Since then there have been numerous official reports recommending increased social provisions and more public expenditure.

At the same time, Britain's 8,000,000 pensioners live longer as a result of improved health facilities, but the domiciliary services they need to keep them out of institutional care are inadequate.

All in all the welfare state cannot cope with the strains imposed on it. As Mr Healey's aide said, the welfare state is like a phoenix, its life expectancy must be limited. New ways of caring for people without incurring huge public expenditure must be found. So we must look to the family, friends and neighbours to see what they can all do for one another. At the same time the local authorities must define the limits within which they wish to work and the statutory services they will operate in the future. Local voluntary

organizations can then see whether they can take on functions previously exercised by the public bodies. Instead of the local authority home help service paying the official rates and bringing in women from all over the district, the neighbourhood voluntary groups could recruit local mothers on a part-time basis to look after one or two neighbours. The service would be cheaper and better. There would be no travel costs. Remuneration rates would not be subject to union negotiations and the help given would be by neighbour to neighbour.

If the meals on wheels service were run on a locality basis, recruiting local volunteers to help with preparation and delivery, a more personal and flexible service would result. Local organizations could offer supper as well as lunch, and for the home-bound a seven-day and not just a five-day service could be provided at less than half the cost.

For years the WRVS has been contracting its meal services. Our aim should be to expand them. It would be both socially and cost effective for the local authorities to give up the expense of maintaining a large fleet of vehicles when there are organizations such as Community Transport, run largely by volunteers who maintain their own fleet, for the benefit of the locality. Young people could earn pocket money from the local authority for tackling jobs which grand children might have done for their elderly or infirm grandparents but which are now done by their full time paid staff.

Tried models for neighbourhood care in urban areas are numerous. In Liverpool ward (population 6,500) 44 voluntary "block" and "street councilors" keep an eye on the 800 old people, the handicapped, and young children at risk. Eleven mothers, employed part time, coordinate the operation. Those living alone receive at least a weekly visit. Those with special needs benefit from daily contact. In this way local authority services are freed, specialist help being brought only in an emergency. The cost of running this programme is equivalent to the salaries of three trained social workers and administrative support. To shift the responsibility back to the individual and away from the state it would be necessary to turn to some of the 120,000 registered voluntary charities as well as to the many community and neighbourhood groups.

In the past five years some 400 new self-help styled organizations have come to life on Merseyside aimed at encouraging self help. This kind of community work is an important development because its purpose is to help people to the point where they can help themselves rather than just provide things for them.

However, it is not just under-trained resources but attitudes that need changing. Parents automatically turn to the state for the education of their children, expect the juvenile courts to deal with them when they are anti-social, the probation service to reform them. They see the local authority as the housing benefactor, the social services as the all-provider.

The most effective way, therefore, of switching from dependence to independence is to provide a minimum slice of

the financial cake nationally and locally to voluntary organizations.

If a permanent formula provided a minimum percentage from public funds to non-voluntary services, say, from the support grant, this would have the effect of raising the and the potential of local munity and voluntary effort.

Although officials waxed about the complementary of voluntary work, they always markedly less on a case when the volunteer for cash or highlights an of neglected need. It is for reason it would be advantageous, once the size of the stake had been agreed, the voluntary organizations are committed how it should be shared among this number.

There are a number of cedens which show that governments give local authorities the opportunity to give voluntary work or to their effort, the local authority favour their own first, the Hon's share.

This can be seen from wening Urban Aid Program as well as the Job Creation Programme—a good example where the public authority have covered the market flooding Action Comm with applications.

Yet voluntary organizations offer something special, a peculiar mixture of individual services, combining flexibility of approach ability to get things done with smaller and less bureaucratic administration, more caring and compassionate approach. Voluntary work is important as it provides alternative to total domination in community social provisions. As important to all this is the fact that voluntary organizations are cost-effective. Liverpool the cost of providing groups is 25p a unit child a day, for the voluntary organizations, as against 35p unit per child a day, for local authority. In youth voluntary organizations are cost-effective. Only a small part of a child in care, similar service provided by a voluntary organization costs only £22.

By pushing back the growing tide of state intervention in our lives, we can start to play his part in building that kind neighbourhood in which would like to live. The reorganization of local government inadvertently caused it could damage by a radical administration to a remote impersonal bureaucracy.

The Conservative Party committed to reducing interference in our lives. It is important; something positive is needed. I believe major plank of our party's programme should be the reformation of the importance family and the need to pro community work on an individual basis as has been previously. Only then will individual feel that his personal contribution is important new phoenix be seen in on the horizon.

Anthony St

The author is Conservative for Liverpool, Wavertree.

Can Dr Soares find the answers to get his fragile government through the year?

Portugal remains a country of strong social and regional contrasts and the minority Socialist Government of Dr Mario Soares has no alternative in 1977 but to seek to establish the highest common denominator of national interests.

As the recent parliamentary debate on this year's economic plan and budget made painfully clear, the search goes on for a viable economic model in a country where a basic consensus simply does not exist. The peaceable nature of the Portuguese people softens but cannot alter this fact.

The United States has just had to approve a \$300m emergency loan to prevent Portugal's foreign exchange reserves from running dry this month. But despite this extremely grave economic situation, the Socialists have come a long way.

Politically they have learnt by making mistakes to adapt from being, during 1975 and the first half of last year, the party of opposition to a minority party in government.

"This liberty is all a big problem", a Lisbon shopkeeper confessed to me. "Economically we decline because people will work less." To restructure Portugal's post-colonial economy when the West is still combating the effects of multiple oil price increases would be a difficult task for a new democracy whatever political party were in power.

The governing Socialists have taken badly the Social Democrats' vote against the economic

plan and now accuse the chief opposition party of going back on their "road to socialism" pledges given approving the constitution last year.

It is not only that Dr Francisco Sa Carneiro and Dr Soares disagree temperamentally and each wants to lead the latest wave of revolutionary rapprochement would split the constituency parties of both formations. It is that the two parties' economic models are presently, though not inevitably, at loggerheads.

Dr Sa Carneiro, with his upper middle class, northern Portuguese background, represents forces committed to defending private enterprise in a part of the country which, unlike the Lisbon industrial region, essentially escaped the wave of revolutionary nationalizations. Politically speaking, the more conservative Centre Democrats (CDS) are today in the north to the left of Dr Sa Carneiro's followers.

The Socialist Government's present economic team, by contrast, is led by Senhor Antonio Sousa Gomes, the Minister of Planning, and his state secretary, Dr Manuel Da Silva, who are not Marxist socialists but—some would say, more doctrinaire—left-wing Catholics deeply revolted by the social effects of the raw capitalism of the Salazar era.

They, and their critics, have found, however, that it is difficult to quantify the "social

costs" of production, and that their insouciant approach makes it difficult to allow the price mechanism to work efficiently. Prominent Portuguese businessmen still in the private sector, grouped into the Confederation of Industry (CIP), have rejected their economic plan because it does not give priority, with a series of tax concessions and revaluation of assets, to private investment to bring about economic recovery.

Such men attack the Socialists' model, with central planning based on control of investment decisions and credit, as incompatible with Dr Soares's intention to seek EEC membership. The dispute over credit facilities controlled by the wholly nationalized banking sector is vital, for while the mentality behind the French *devises* depends on the French being wholly acceptable to them, Portuguese businessmen hold that the country's senior bank officials are today anti-private enterprise on principle.

Dr Soares's Socialist Party is, however, really at present consolidating the nationalized sector, reducing the big deficit—the banks, cement, and paper pulp made profits last year—while simultaneously trying to restore the basic market economy.

Behind the \$300m emergency loan is a \$1,500m international operation by the Americans as being managed through the International Mon-

etary Fund, to try to turn around Portugal's economic situation, where last year the balance of payments deficit, after compensating financing arrangements, meant a foreign exchange cost of \$600m and a trade deficit estimated at more than \$1,600m.

The quid pro quo for this foreign indebtedness looks, on an informed guess, like being a change to more realistic government economic team, higher interest rates, a sharp devaluation of the escudo (after the ineffective floating down), and more sales of Portugal's gold reserves. The Germans, second biggest partners in the loan, would prefer to see a better foreign investment guarantees.

All these measures will surely generate some domestic and party controversy—and Dr Soares has called an emergency Socialist Party congress, involving policy decisions, later this month. But against this an invigorated economic team would improve his image before next month's round of consultations in the EEC capitals about eventual membership.

Portugal has an "unorthodox" economy, and this will test IMF experts' advice on future measures. If, for instance, devaluation would help Portugal's tourism and swell Portuguese emigrant workers' payments back home, exhibition of Silver Jubilee imports of equipment and materials, and the demand

curve for the exports is so uncertain, the end result is uncertain. Devaluation, by aggravating the already declining popular living standards, would generate labour unrest easily captained by the communist trade unions.

There is no foreseeable alternative to Dr Soares's approach of making haste slowly towards a more realistic economic recovery, and this is the rationale of the international loans—provided they go into the productive sector.

President Eanes, who is likely to take an increasing day-to-day interest in the economic problem, is known to disapprove of the Socialists' recent tactics because that helps the Communists, but he also wishes to see the Socialists behaving more pragmatically. A start might be made taking up a Socialist Democrat suggestion to jointly negotiate an austerity programme.

Dr Sa Carneiro, however, after his party's local government election success, dreams of a big Socialist Democrat party should the Socialists collapse under the economic crisis. Instability could be a suicidal risk all the same for Portugal's Democrats. A young Portuguese historian asked pointedly last month whether it had not been the inability of the country's ruling classes to govern themselves this century which led to military-backed dictatorships.

Richard Wigg

The Times Diary

Encyclopaedia for an age of vision

The trouble with the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, according to James Mitchell is that there are too many words in it. What we need, in this age of television, is an encyclopaedia with pictures—thousands and thousands of them. Mitchell has produced just that.

On Monday night the book-sellers of Cambridge, who might be thought a conservative and hard-headed bunch, were invited to the best hotel in town for the first public showing of what the publishers like to describe as the first international encyclopaedia in the history of the world. In the best tradition of encyclopaedias, it comes with a hard sell and some formidable claims for itself.

James Mitchell and his partner John Beazley left the publishing house of Nelson in 1969 and set up on their own, operating with success in the field of lavishly illustrated books, including Patrick Moore's *Atlas of the Universe* and Hugh Johnson's *World Atlas of 1976*. But they always wanted to do a set of encyclopaedias, and it

was Moore, whose sharp astronomical eye can also spot a good business deal at several light years' distance, who suggested the format.

Encouraged by the success of one of their previous productions, *The Joy of Sex*, Mitchell Beazley have called their ten-volume set ("All the world's essential knowledge within one library") *The Joy of Knowledge*. Like the previous work, it relies heavily on the explicitness of its 10,000 illustrations and diagrams.

Mitchell and his team explained the making of their great work to the book-sellers with the aid of slides, illustrating how each double-page spread, with its lavish colour illustrations, tells a complete story, be it "Trains and buses" or "How an automobile works".

Publication of the first two of the ten volumes in March has involved three years of concentrated work by a huge team of artists and eminent contributors. The final stage was to give the finished work to an independent panel of experts,

who were paid £1 for every mistake they could find. One woman had a Spanish holiday on the proceeds; they had got rather a lot of Latin spellings wrong.

The publishers are specially proud of the fact that they have already recouped their £3 million investment by selling the rights for 14 foreign editions, some of them to illustrious competitors. *Britannica* has bought partial American rights, and Larousse is to bring out a French translation.

Further respectability has accrued by the appearance at the front of each volume of Lord Sudeley, Master of Trinity, who wrote a glowing preface on condition that no underhand methods were used to sell the sets. Mitchell Beazley are seriously avoiding door-to-door enterprise and are selling only through bookshops.

Mitchell described the work as "a crusade to make general knowledge exciting again". His managing director Ken Banerji exhorted the book-sellers to "get down to love the books and feel the words with them".

The book-sellers, who were quite impressed, got down to feeling the specimen volumes. John Cheshire of Heffers found them "very attractive indeed". He thought that making the books available as at the time was a double-edged weapon. "It will help my customers to

be able to buy them individually at £12.50, and I can publicly test IMF experts' advice on future measures. If, for instance, devaluation would help Portugal's tourism and swell Portuguese emigrant workers' payments back home, exhibition of Silver Jubilee imports of equipment and materials, and the demand

This obfuscation, spotted on a bottle of corn oil by a Hove reader, brings home the necessity of taking your pocket calculator with you to the supermarket.

The first thing you see is a selection of their books, a catholic range of titles including *Know your Broadleaves* and *Wind Environment and Buildings*. Next we learn that HMSO produces rag dolls, rises for artificial eyes, and referendum statements in Welsh and Gujarati.

The most curious display is of 3,600 ball-point pens, strung neatly on a frame. This is the number of pens HMSO is required to supply to its customers every working hour. For those who enjoy such statistics, it also revealed that our government departs from through half a million tails of twice a year—and that, I suppose, does not include the small number needed to string up 3,600 ball-point pens.

Not detail is overlooked. Civil servants looking for something in which to carry their ball-point pens and magnificently designed official forms will soon have a coordinated range of hand baggage, commissioned

by HMSO to replace the present non-uniform attaché cases. When I left, there were still crowds milling around the jubilee displays, gawking at the corpi mort rack and the numerous mugs. I believe that one of the troubles with this corner of the market is that I have dozens too many at home, decorated with nursery rhymes, signs of the zodiac, and extracts from *The Times*. On the other hand, I never have enough ball-point pens.

Role-playing
How did Eleanor Bron, on Monday night, come to be lecturing ruling classes to a bunch of students about how to become an actor? The complex logic of the event originated last year when Jasja Reichardt organized a series of lectures for the Architectural Association at which hardly anyone turned up.

That set her wondering how, if students did not go to lectures, they would ever learn anything. And that gave her the idea for a series of lectures called "Feeding the mind, or how do we learn?" Miss Bron was the first, and did at least achieve the aim of filling all the seats.

The actress, best known for her work in television satire, wanted an informal setting, more a seminar than a lecture. So they placed the audience of a hundred or so in a semi-circle round her. Wearing a trower suit, a burgundy wool shawl and lots of silver things round her neck, she propped herself on the back of her chair and began her talk—"How do we learn to be somebody else?"



with three faintly theatrical jokes. Things improved after she is an intelligent age who knows how to interest audience, even if some of reasoning was a little intricate. An actor, she maintained, not learn to be someone he learns to give the impression of being someone. Maybe because in real Miss Bron is very much like characters she plays, some the questions after returned to the question of far actors put themselves their roles. "Everyone is little mini-play most of time," she mused. "Art goes on for about two hours but life goes on for ages." Next week's lecture called: "How do we learn in two days if we James Bond?" and the seeds on March 14 with a by an artist and psychologist. "How do we learn to clothes she takes off? I forward to some gr improved architecture in 1980s.

Inflation has caught up with January sales at Chisnam Lewisham, whose advertiser in the South East-London Kentish Mercury advert "Pierre Cardin ties-norm £3.95—sale price £6.95."



THE FUNDAMENTALS REMAIN

The new safety net scheme for sterling announced from Basle on Monday night, is not the millennium. But it is a thoroughly sensible measure to deal with a real, though limited, problem. It is also something of a modest triumph, both for the Prime Minister who last October publicly proclaimed his intention to secure such an arrangement over the heads of a sceptical, even hostile Treasury and Bank of England, and for constructive international cooperation.

The curse of the sterling balance has been that when they were causing trouble and the pound was weak, as either a cause or a consequence, nothing could be done about them, and that when the pound was strong no one was minded to do anything about them. This deadlock has been broken, partly by the greater realism of government economic policies and partly by the political will and far-sightedness of Chancellor Schmidt, President Ford and others who understood and heeded Mr Callaghan's argument that financial stabilization in Britain must proceed.

There is no indisputable historical evidence that the sterling balance—being money held in sterling deposits and short-term sterling assets by foreigners—ever have by themselves caused any economic damage to Britain; and their accumulation and management has at times been a source of both valuable support to the balance of payments and significant invisible earnings of foreign exchange by the City. But the belief that these balances, which could always in theory be withdrawn at short notice, hung like a Damocles' sword over the exchange value of the pound was itself a source of nervousness: it tended to magnify the effects of any weakening of confidence in the pound arising from other causes. The sterling balances have also provided a whipping boy for

those who wished to explain away adverse consequences of weak government policies and poor industrial performance. They have also lent a superficial plausibility to the argument that international capitalism (somewhat oddly operating through the management of the national reserves of other, frequently socialist, governments) exercised some oblique financial veto over the conduct of Britain's domestic affairs when Labour Governments sought to implement their election manifestos.

The immediate removal of any substantial threat to the pound from any switching of sterling reserves held by other countries and the eventual removal of the balances themselves, under the proposed progressive conversion of the balances into British Government securities denominated in foreign currency should help by removing both the nervousness and the excuses for the consequences of wrong policies.

The main justification for the greater strength of sterling now is not the safety net scheme as such, but partly the Government's correction of the alarming trend of monetary policy last summer and partly the correction of exaggerated pessimism last October. But just as it was wrong then to extrapolate the pound's weakness in a straight line to early extinction, so it would be wrong now to extrapolate the improving tone on a straight line to smelt uplands.

None of the fundamental problems of the British economy have changed. Indeed, in one important way they are augmented. If, as appears to be the intention, the Government has been constrained by the creditor governments of the Group of Ten countries putting up the \$3,000m safety net to undertake to convert the existing official balances into foreign currency bonds which will then be repaid in cash within ten years, the United Kingdom will have to

earn an extra \$3,800m or so in balance of payments surpluses over that decade.

If this extra balance of payments surplus on current account is achieved, about a third of 1 per cent of national output that would otherwise have been available each year for investment or consumption at home will be forfeit. This is not in itself a large amount; but even smaller amounts have caused difficulty in the past.

If the extra surplus is not achieved then the repayments of the converted sterling balances will have to be financed by other borrowing abroad; and that other borrowing may or may not turn out to be less onerous than the form of finance provided by the sterling balances themselves. In other words the course on which the Prime Minister has embarked is right, but stony.

The Basle agreement is thus anything but an occasion for relaxation, except perhaps relaxation of tension. It actually increases, albeit modestly, the balance of payments surpluses we shall need to earn over the next ten years; and that cost cannot just be written off as yet another charge against the already heavily ear-marked fruits of the North Sea.

For this reason governments will have to resist not merely the temptation to ease fiscal and monetary restraints on spending, but also the temptation to allow the pound to appreciate too strongly if and when returning confidence and the expected improvement in the current account promotes such a tendency. If something like \$3,800m in foreign exchange is going to be needed by the mid-80s to pay off converted sterling balances, then extra reserves must be built up to that level over the intervening years. Otherwise Mr Callaghan's successful diplomacy and President Ford's and Chancellor Schmidt's acts of faith will be betrayed.

Amending India's constitution

From the High Commissioner for India

Sir, How good it would be if the cobbler would stick to his last! I have great respect for Mr Levin's views on Wagner; I have much less for his views on the Indian Constitution. I doubt that he has read any of the 395 Articles of the Constitution or any of the 59 clauses of "The Legislation". I do not write on Wagner; I wish he did not write on the Indian Constitution.

His two articles (January 5 and 6) to which your distinguished newspaper has given such prominent hospitality are *deja vu*. They repeat, accepting as gospel, what Mr Kamath, a Socialist member of the Opposition, has said publicly in India almost in his own words. This explains no doubt why Mr Levin's vitriol is not matched by Mr Levin's normal verbal elegance.

It is not possible within the confines of a letter to controvert point by point Mr Levin's interpretation of "the Legislation". The thrust, with which alone I shall deal, of Mr Levin's argument—enhanced by your headlines—is that "the Legislation" is designed to make Mrs Gandhi a dictator because it enhances the powers of the Legislature—not the Executive—and reduces that of the Courts.

What "the Legislation" in fact does is to restore to the Indian Parliament some of the fraction of the supremacy which the British Parliament has and which some of the enormous powers of the Indian judges which British judges never had. If the British Constitution does not make Mr Callaghan a dictator, how does an amended Indian Constitution which still leaves Mrs Gandhi with much lesser powers make her one?

Mr Levin refers to Mrs Gandhi's majorities as "tame". Why? Are they any tamer than those of Mr Callaghan or Mr Schmidt? Even if they were not, they are still a handful of legislators under duress—but there are none for their political views or their voting record; only for their un- and extra-constitutional activities.

The infamous Kesavanand Bhadrat case decided by a majority of seven judges to strike the "basic structure" of the Constitution could not be amended by the constitutional processes clearly stated in Article 356 of the Constitution. What the "basic structure" was, nor what the method of amending it was, they were not pleased to indicate. That is why "the Legislation" makes it clear who has the power to amend the Constitution. It is not the Prime Minister—it is wholly incorrect that she can change it by decree—but Parliament alone with two-thirds majority. The powers of the judges have been curtailed but their independence safeguarded because their tenure is secure. It is really a step towards dictatorship to transfer power from the nobility of the Chief Executive to the nobility of the judges in all democratic countries, the freely elected representatives of the people?

Yours, etc.,
B. K. NEHRU, High Commissioner for India,
India House,
Aldwych, WC2,
January 10.

The German economy

From Sir Keith Joseph

Sir, One may admire the technical virtuosity of Lord Kaldor's intellectual gymnastics which permits him to claim that the Federal Republic of Germany is an example of socialism (January 6), but he clashes at many points with the verifiable facts. Far from putting Germany in the dog house, as Lord Kaldor suggests I should do, I hail it to many ways as an example of rational economic policies.

The avowed policy of the Federal Republic under both parties has been conformity with the market, reliance on the private sector, firm control of the money supply.

I could not do better than refer Lord Kaldor to a study "Germany through Inflation and Recession: An Object Lesson in Economic Management, 1973-76" by Dr Konrad Zweig which this centre published towards the end of last year. The author shows how the liberal economic thought accepted by all three German parties, combined with courageous monetary policies by the Central Bank, permitted Germany to ride out the recession and world inflation. If Lord Kaldor could only persuade his Labour Party colleagues to adopt similar policies for one year, it would be happy to let him label them anything he likes.

But so long as he would have us believe that Germany's prosperity comes from following his prescriptions, I must respectfully set the record straight.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH JOSEPH, Director,
Centre for Policy Studies,
8 Wiltshire Street, SW1,
January 11.

Clocks in danger

From Mr J. M. M. Keil

Sir, As we have recently experienced the loss of a very good bracket clock, I can fully support Mr Pennefather's concern (Letters, January 7).

One wonders whether sufficient effort is being made in the detection and recovery of stolen works of art. The ease with which items are transferred overseas by container van with apparently minuscule documentation is quite appalling.

There has recently been correspondence complaining of foreigners buying antiques due to our devaluation. Surely it is even more disturbing when they go for nothing.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. M. KEIL,
John Keil Limited,
154 Brompton Road, SW3,
January 10.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The right of trial by jury

From The President of The Law Society

Sir, It is too much to hope that the cogency and wisdom of our leader of January 6 will influence those who are hell-bent on restricting the right to trial by jury. The Bill before Parliament reflects the modern tendency in Whitehall for administrative and economic reasons, to implement the worst and eliminate the best from the reports of Committees. Those tried before magistrates, as The Law Society has repeatedly pointed out, are denied the right to be tried in a higher court, or knowing in advance the case they have to meet. The recommendations of the James Committee in this respect are not pursued.

The fundamental weakness of their Report was that they were prepared to recommend reductions in the right to trial by jury, while expressly denying by their terms of reference, the opportunity to determine which was the more fair and just method of trial.

I have long applauded the valuable contribution which the magistracy makes to the administration of justice. Forty years' experience of the operation of the criminal courts, however, has convinced me and the Council of The Law Society, that lay magistrates in general, and stipendiaries in particular, should not be given an exclusive jurisdiction in all charges of petty theft such as shoplifting, or in charges of assault on or obstruction of the police, in indecent assault and importuning. Whilst a number of such cases might safely be left to them, there are a significant number in which, because justices tend unlike juries, to be case hardened and more legalistic, justice is denied.

The James Committee was established for the purpose of devising means of reducing the expense and congestion in the higher courts. This was largely, if not entirely, a London problem and ignores the problems of delay in the magistracy courts themselves.

The further restriction now proposed only extends a fundamental weakness in our system of justice, namely, that jurisdiction of the courts is based not on the seriousness, complexity or difficulty of any particular case, but, in general, on the amount of money involved. The two things are not always synonymous. As the James Committee itself observed: "Monetary value is not always a realistic guide to the gravity of the offence."

This is a further step in an all too familiar direction. Once again, expediency becomes a substitute for justice and freedom dies another death.

Yours very truly,
DAVID NAPLEY,
President's Room,
The Law Society's Hall,
Chancery Lane, WC2,
January 10.

From Miss Joyce Purser

Sir, If the arguments in your leader (January 6), opposing the restriction of certain duties of the magistracy courts, are valid, then the implications for the future of those courts is serious. If it is indeed true that magistrates "suffer from the blunders of their largely middle class membership" and "are too I see uncritically, evidence given by the police", and that "a wrongful conviction is more likely in a magistrates' court" than surely the pressure should be to remove as many cases as possible from these grossly unsatisfactory tribunals, leaving

Hereditary peerage

From Lord Ferrier

Sir, I feel I may be able to make a contribution to the correspondence initiated by Mr Fletcher-Cooke's letter (January 4). As one of the original life peers, whose creation was announced in a Gazette notice connected with any "Honours List", it was perfectly clear at the time that the Life Peerages Act, 1958, was designed to increase the number of people willing, and able, to apply themselves to the work of the Second Chamber rather than only to reward past service.

Admittedly, when I accepted the offer of a life peerage, I took the view that the hereditary system was "on the way out", but it did not take many years of experience in Parliament for me to become convinced that this was in fact an acceptable system, and that comparatively young and vigorous members of independent mind are available (whatever their party allegiance, if any) to take a substantial part in the work of the Second Chamber, and I did not envisage a total cessation of the creation of hereditary peers as marks of service to the state.

Coventry air raid

From Mr Marshall Sir Thomas Elmhirst

Sir, May I add a "follow up" to your records and to Robert Parker's contribution in your columns of January 6.

On the night of the Luftwaffe's raid on Coventry, November 14, 1940, I was "on watch" 8 pm to 8.45 as the duty Air Commodore in charge of the Fighter Command underground operations room at the HQ at Bentley Priory, Stanmore. When I took over from my predecessor at 8 pm, he told me that the C-in-C (Dowding) had been told that a likely that night on the Birmingham Coventry area, and that orders had already been given for one of our few mobile anti-aircraft and searchlight batteries to move from the Manchester-Liverpool area to the new target area. He also told me that Fighter Group HQ in the East and South of England, where night fighters were based, had been warned of the possibility of a heavy night attack on the Midlands.

The same procedure, though I cannot vouch for it, probably occurred on the days before the evening heavy raids on Southampton, Bristol, Liverpool, Portsmouth and London, all of which suffered heavily that November and December. Air raid warnings were standardised and "set off" by the duty Air Commodore who overlooked the operations room table map of Britain on which was plotted,

them perhaps to deal with traffic offences of a minor nature.

Even here, though, there would be grave danger of injustice, especially since so much of the evidence in such cases depends solely on the testimony of police officers. Acceptance of your arguments must cast serious doubts on the desirability of the whole system of magistrates' courts. To abolish them, of course, would be inordinately expensive, as the deal with some 96 per cent of all criminal cases in this country, and there is as I understand it, no distinction between lay and stipendiary magistrates in your criticism.

There is no doubt that the quality and efficiency of magistrates varies considerably, both from bench to bench, and within the membership of each petty sessional division. A similar criticism could be made of the professional judiciary (why else do counsel manoeuvre to have their cases heard by one judge rather than another?).

It is at least arguable that magistrates, who are experienced in weighing the value of evidence presented to them and in assessing the credibility of witnesses and defendants, and who moreover are accustomed to court procedure, may be a little more likely to arrive at the truth than a group of citizens with no experience, qualification or training for the task, who may also be bewildered and puzzled by the unfamiliar procedure of the crown court.

Is there really any hard evidence one way or the other to indicate whether juries or justices are more often right in their findings?

And though the price of justice is probably becoming more and more certain true that the price of dealing with cases in the crown courts is greatly in excess of disposing of them before magistrates.

Yours faithfully,
JOYCE PURSER,
Woodbury,
Dogsheath Road,
Peterborough,
January 6.

Village schools

From Canon L. W. C. Sharland

Sir, May a former country person suggest that some of our current education problems might be partially solved by a return to village schools? However wise or otherwise it was to close village schools, reduce railroads and reorganise school services, it is surely, as a London problem and ignores the problems of delay in the magistracy courts themselves.

The real indictment from future historians will surely not be that great mistakes were made, but that they were not admitted or corrected when it was clearly right to do so. A return to primary village education would have some obvious advantages, including the provision of a strong foundation for the new improved education structure Mrs Williams and others are seeking, and could help to reduce the number of redundant teachers as well as involve more closely the parents and local community.

But what of the cost? Why not a Village Jubilee Project, at least to provide the buildings? And of course there would be some saving of money from reduced school bus and meal services.

Yours truly,
LEONARD SHARLAND,
Applegarth,
Longmeadow Road,
Lymington,
Devon,
January 10.

Unfortunately, as time went on, the creation of life peerages began to be included in, or, indeed, almost confined to, "Honours Lists", and this has created a measure of confusion in the public mind and in the attitude of the media. I see no reason why service to the nation should not be recognized by the offer of an hereditary peerage as are the Orders of Chivalry.

Some measure of reform of the House of Lords is probably desirable and certainly possible without totally eliminating the hereditary element, which element seems to me to be acceptable and logical so long as, as a nation, are proud to have an hereditary monarch as head of state.

It follows that I agree with Mr Fletcher-Cooke's contention that the present situation amounts to a variation of our constitution without the sanction of Parliament Assembled or of the People.

Whatever the ultimate decision may be, as the matter stands Mr John Lee is correct when he writes (January 6) that it is "constitutional change occurring by stealth".

I am, Sir, yours, etc.,
FERRIER,
House of Lords.

The Banabans and the Gilbertese

From the General Secretary, Council for World Mission (Congregational and Reformed)

Sir, We should all be grateful to Sir Bernard Braine for his article on Ocean Island (The Times, January 10) and to James Cameron for a television film on the same subject. It is not often that the small population of a distant speck on the map gain such a sympathetic hearing in Britain.

That there has been a case of exploitation under the British colonial system there can be no doubt. The benefit accruing to Britain was the cheap food we were able to import from Australia and New Zealand, subsidised by Ocean Island's cheap fertilizer. Britain must attempt to put things right.

Unfortunately the present publicity focuses solely on the Banabans and not on the Gilbert Islands as a whole. The Banabans and the Gilbertese were one people, one in language and tradition, one by intermarriage, so it was not just a commercial trick to include Ocean Island within the boundaries of the Gilbert Islands colony. The phosphate was regarded quite properly as a resource for all the Gilbertese with separate royalties going to those who directly owned the Ocean Island land itself.

To speak now of separation for Ocean Island is to blow to the Gilbertese. Britain cannot escape from her Pacific entanglements by taking a narrow view of her responsibilities.

It will be up to Pacific people themselves to find a reconciliation of interests, but perhaps Britain may allay fears by adopting a policy such as the following:

1. With the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, Britain should ensure that the British Phosphate Commissioners make generous provision in lieu of making good the surface soil of Ocean Island.
2. With this resource behind them the Banabans should be given freedom to resettle on Ocean Island if they wish to do so.
3. The Gilbert Islands Government should be informed that Britain does not recognise independence for Ocean Island at the present time.
4. Britain should expedite the independence of the Gilbert Islands, and seek an agreed time for the referendum, for a referendum among Banabans who live on Rabi or Ocean Island on the question of independence for Ocean Island; the majority wish to be respected by all the Pacific peoples.

Further, as an historic wrong is always very difficult; we are liable to create new injustices. Therefore the British Parliament should not be hurried into adopting a short term and narrow view of our obligations.

Yours truly,
BERNARD THOROGOOD,
Livingstone House,
11 Carteret Street, SW1.

Voting in Europe

From Mr Pietro Cipolla

Sir, I should like to draw your attention to a worrying fact concerning the future (or possible) elections of the European Parliament: that of the vote of emigrants, living in particular in the Italian emigrant community in the E.E.C. They number an astonishing 1,600,000 (the statistics are taken from an article in one of the December issues of *La Voce degli Italiani* a fortnightly newspaper for Italians resident in the United Kingdom) and as things stand at the moment, they will have to return to their country of origin in order to vote.

The exercise of this right, which far from being just another bureaucratic obstacle to be overcome as quickly as possible, should be facilitated by the ultimate realization of European integration; will be for most of these Italians, at the best, a very expensive duty, at the worst a worthless abstraction.

Only 14 per cent of the Italians living abroad voted in the recent legislative elections in Italy, and granted the way I think, the European elections have been played down and delayed for so long, and the feeling of many emigrants who have been cut out of the political elections of the countries they have been resident for so many years, I fear the percentage of those who will return to vote will be much lower.

I should think that if a European Parliament is to be really representative and not just a projection of age old national systems and policies, this small and seemingly insignificant anomalousism should be removed.

Yours faithfully,
PIETRO CIPOLLA,
114 Kingston Green Road,
Solihull,
West Midlands.

Temple Bar

From Mr Angus Acworth

Sir, I refer to the letters on this subject which you published on December 31 and January 7. There is a sort of re-year-lich about Temple Bar. This scheme and that is put forward to bring it back to the City of London, all of them in my view misconceived.

Temple Bar was designed by Sir Christopher Wren as a ceremonial entrance to the City. It was removed when traffic increased, the street plan was altered and the *mise-en-scène* changed out of recognition. Temple Bar cannot be put on the site for which it was designed; and so makeshift efforts are made to find somewhere else to put it—the bottom of Middle Temple Lane, the northeast corner of St Paul's Churchyard or wherever.

Those who would honour Wren should realize that there is nowhere in the City where the gateway can be an integral part of its setting as opposed to being just an exhibit. At Potter's Bar it is a distinguished landscape feature of the kind which became popular in the eighteenth century. It is best left there but the Department of the Environment should take guardianship—at the moment I believe it is no more than scheduled—so that it is properly maintained.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
ANGUS ACWORTH,
47 Eaton Square, SW1.

PRICE FIXING BY TRADE UNION POWER

When the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection was created to usher in the new era of fearless promotion of fair trading practices, consumers were promised vigorous action against anyone who dared tamper with their interests. It is, therefore, disappointing to see a minister of the abilities of Mr Roy Hattersley contriving a situation so totally counter to his Whitehall brief.

The spectacle of the small United Road Transport Union quite openly forcing supermarkets to observe prices for bread higher than if consumers were allowed to exercise their free choice is an amazing one. It is largely of Mr Hattersley's own making, given the history of intervention on trade discounts; the responsibility for correcting what the Consumers' Association has told the TUC's general secretary, Mr Len Murray, is an "arrant disregard for consumer interests" rests with the Government.

SECRET DEATH IN SOUTH AFRICA'S PRISONS

The admission by the South African police yesterday that two more detainees under interrogation have died has led the South African Institute of Race Relations to ask for another judicial inquiry. Fifteen are said to have died in police custody in 1976, and more boldly, Mr Sonny Leon, a member of the official Coloured Representative Council, three weeks ago called for an inquiry by the International Commission of Jurists, indicating that no other judicial investigation would be convincing.

He was right, though the South African Institute quite properly called for the only one the South African Government would consider. The call for an impartial investigation is not new. After the death of Mr Ahmed Timol, for instance, the result of falling by an alleged accident from the tenth floor of a prison window, the International Jurists themselves called for an impartial inquiry. They were of course ignored.

There have been a succession of locally based inquiries into the actions of policemen or

warders in the past ten years, but still the "suicides" of political suspects and prisoners continue, and still no change is made in prison administration or methods—although on a number of occasions judges have imposed fines and even imprisonment on warders or police who were properly or improperly guilty of behaving properly or brutally. The fact that some justice occasionally is done may be adduced by apologists for South Africa as evidence that there is legal restraint over police and warders.

The salient fact is that the deaths in prison continue. The further fact is that the constant excuse of the police that the prisoners took their own lives is itself a clear admission that torture, physical and psychological, is extensively employed, and is on an increasing scale. It is evidence that Mr Vorster's Government is unperturbed by the occasional judicial reverses their men suffer, and suggests that the police and the warders' methods are to its liking. The only alternative to such a conclusion is that the police are out of the Government's control.

A number of whites who were detained in South Africa have returned to the world to report not only that they were victims of the tortures by non-white prisoners they surreptitiously made contact with, but heard evidence of it with their ears. They may be accused of bias. They should not be. For this is a case in which the accused, the South African Government, must be held guilty until it proves its innocence. It has suppressed all the evidence it can and intimidated all possible witnesses. Newspaper investigation of prison affairs is illegal and those who infringe the law have been punatively fined. The ordinary citizen who speaks up disappears—the Minister of Justice can detain anyone for a year without a charge, and he has a vast arsenal of weapons of intimidation.

The South African Government may refuse an international inquiry, but it must be told that so low has the reputation of its justice fallen that no other inquiry will be acceptable. Default must, therefore, be entered as an admission of guilt.

Though, unfortunately, not surprising, it is depressing to see members of my profession using yet again the delights expressed by past overseas visitors as a measure of the worth of their products. I feel certain the controller of housing could supply a more critical appraisal of their value from present tenants.

The profession does itself a disservice when, as the letter implies, it divorces architectural standards from architectural service.

Yours truly,
CEDRIC PRICE,
38 Alfred Place, WC1,
January 4.

Ulster reconciliation

From The Reverend Adrian Hastings

Sir, Could it be that the criticism by the Catholic Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise of the political vacuum in Northern Ireland owes something to unease with the peace movement for community reconciliation?

Human society has its perennial mechanisms for reconciling divided groups, the chief of these being the common education of the young and marriage across the divide. The logic of the peace movement is to encourage shared education and mixed marriages, the current discipline of the Catholic bishops of Ireland is to oppose them.

While a hasty mixing of all schools could greatly increase the fears of the community and is quite out of the question, could the Church not take the lead in encouraging an openness to inter-church sharing both in school and in marriage? By so doing it would undermine the basic causes of sectarian distrust which its own regulations have hitherto stimulated.

There could be no more authentic contribution, in deed as well as in word, to the cause of peace.

Yours,
ADRIAN HASTINGS,
8 Bedford Place,
Aberdeen,
January 6.

JLC housing

From Mr Cedric Price

I refer to the letter from Sir James Richards and others (The Times, January 4) concerning the proposed change in the JLC Architects Department.

If the design and construction of houses is viewed as one aspect of housing, then the change seems extremely sensible, since it is a reaffirmation of housing as a humane continuous process rather than a reduct dominated programme. If it is used not by themselves create homes then this sharing of responsibility with others should increase the possibility of a more coherent housing policy with fewer architectural fashion fashions—I forget, are glaze houses good or bad for these days?

It is worth recalling that the national housing effort after the war was the responsibility of the Ministry of Health—and was seen part of a process of establishing national wellbeing. Healthy people live in cold buildings—the ill in them.

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Iran imposes barter rules for imports in face of declining revenue from oil

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, and Abu Dhabi raised prices by only 5 per cent.

Iran was already in some financial difficulty before the split in the oil producers' cartel, and the slump in crude supplies has been cutting the oil revenues of the world's second largest producer by \$23m a day compared with a year ago.

Iranian minister yesterday explained that direct sales of the National Iranian Oil Company in early January were 51 per cent down on the December average. Sales through the consortium of western oil companies handling a large slice of Iran's crude fell by 35 per cent.

Customers who had failed to take delivery of crude sold to them directly had violated their agreements and commitments, he said. They had demanded a discount which was immediately rejected.

To meet the crisis, the minister disclosed, all the country's future imports would be switched to barter, trading oil for commodities (as practised with the Soviet Union and most Eastern block countries).

Presentations of the coming year's budget to Parliament would be delayed for two weeks in order to adjust figures and prepare more realistic measures.

Suppliers of equipment and contractors engaged on many

Heavy sales reverse pound's gains

By Our Economics Staff

Heavy selling of the pound yesterday afternoon wiped out all the gains which sterling had made overnight in New York on the strength of the agreement in Basle to deal with the sterling balances.

Sterling closed in London at 1.7085, down 0.05 cents compared with its Monday close in London and nearly 24 cents down on its opening rate of \$1.7305.

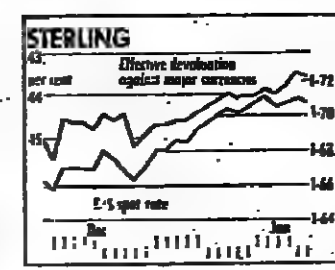
Hedging buying in the United States had at one point taken the pound to \$1.74. Its effective devaluation against a basket of other currencies was 43.3 per cent. This was 0.1 per cent more worse than at close of business in London on Monday.

A big Swiss seller in mid-afternoon seems to have been the driving force behind the fall yesterday afternoon, but the subject of requests to settle bills in oil and exporters returning to Britain from Iran have separate stories of emerging problems.

Britain is a big supplier of non-defence items, including machinery, steel, pharmaceutical goods and transport equipment (including Chrysler UK cars in kit form for local assembly).

Whether Mr Deh can salvage both existing export orders and expected contracts without taking huge quantities of more expensive oil (Iran is already a big supplier to the United Kingdom) seems doubtful. Government pressure has already been brought to bear on companies, like Shell and BP, to protect certain defence contracts by accepting oil above normal prices.

To date, Iraq has provided only \$300m of the \$1,000m loan promised to the United Kingdom. The question now is whether Mr Deh can negotiate the second and third instalments when the budget minister's statement on external aid indirectly dismisses the possibility.



Basle aid 'paves way for long-term solution'

From Frank Vogel

Washington, Jan 11—Mr Edwin M. Nixon, the United States Secretary of the Treasury, said today that the agreement on the problems of the sterling balances now paved the way for a fundamental long-term solution.

He noted that "it will certainly eliminate any instability (in the exchange markets) that might arise from fluctuations in the levels of sterling balances".

Secret negotiations have taken place over the past month, culminating in a quick visit to London by Mr Yeo over the weekend and the meeting in Basle during the past two days of central bank governors.

The first substantive discussions on the outline of the agreement took place immediately after the British Government had firmly decided what set of new economic policies to promote in connection with the application for a \$3,900m (about \$2,900m) loan from the IMF.

No agreement on the balances would have been possible without firm support and a large financial commitment by the United States. The Americans wanted the agreement to avoid any guarantee of a fixed exchange rate for the pound.

It also had to be formulated in a way that it would not set any precedent that could inspire some large foreign holder of dollars to press the Americans at some future date to adopt a similar scheme for at least partial funding of the vast volume of current foreign dollar balances.

Congressional leaders took the view that the United States could not participate at this time in a long-term loan to Britain in addition to its involvement through the general arrangement to borrow to provide currencies to the IMF to finance the loan to Britain.

It was agreed at the outset that the United States would have to provide a sort of short-term medium-term credit to support British reserves, rather than directly assume any part of the official sterling holdings by means, for example, of directly offering dollars to British holders of United States Treasury notes.

The Americans also took the view that if the problem was to be solved then some funding arrangements for the sterling balances were needed in addition to providing the British



Changing patterns hit wallpaper factories

ICI is to close its Oldham, Lancashire, wallpaper factory at the end of this year, accounting for between a quarter and a third of the company's total production of wallcoverings. Some 300 jobs are affected.

This follows an earlier announcement from Reed International, whose Crown subsidiary, British major wallpaper manufacturer, that production is being pared by rather less than 10 per cent. The smallest of Crown's nine wallpaper mills in Manchester, has been closed and this move together with cutbacks at some of the other mills is resulting in the disappearance of about 400 jobs.

The cutbacks by the two companies come after a steady decline in the wallpaper industry in the past 10 years to which recent pressures on disposable income may well have given a cruel twist.

Reed believes that the overall decline in the wallcovering market may be only 3 to 4 per cent in the past five years, but with major changes as among the various types of covering. Wall paper's share of the market is put at 30 per cent down, but the vinyl share is thought to be up by around 100 per cent.

Production of "whites" — embossed paper which is then painted — has gone up 77 per cent, Reed believes.

ICI's Oldham closure will take the company out of wallpaper production entirely, but a major effort will be made to restore its overall share of the wallcovering market by increasing sales of its vinyls and of a blown polyethylene film, which falls between wallpapers and the vinyls in price.

A medium-range vinyl is usually at least 50 per cent more expensive than a medium-range wallpaper but has a longer life on the wall. The longevity of vinyls is probably one of the factors in shrinking the wallcovering market.

Reed claims that vinyls still account for less than 20 per cent of the wallcovering market, with "whites" accounting for 30 per cent and the rest going to the papers.

The company sees two main causes for wallpaper decline — a swing in public taste to painted walls. Wallpaper is no longer the cheapest method of covering a wall, emulsion paint is now cheaper.

The main reason why the edge on price has gone to paint is that raw materials costs for both papers and the vinyls have gone up by some 300 per cent in five years.

There are fears in the industry that the drain on disposable incomes will mean acceptance of a dowdy house by many people for months yet. The stagnant house market is another gloomy factor, although the trade body hopes for improvement instead of moving to a new home could help sales.

ICI said last night that there was some evidence that the market might now have bottomed out and that later this year a slow improvement could begin.

Derek Harris

BNOC reaches North Sea participation pact with Deminex

By Malcolm Brown

The Government yesterday announced a North Sea oil participation agreement with the West German company Deminex.

Dr J. Dickson Mabon, Minister of State for Energy, said that an agreement in principle had been reached, which would give the British National Oil Corporation the right to take a 51 per cent share of the Thistle oil field.

Deminex (UK) Exploration and Production, and Deminex Oil and Gas (UK), both subsidiaries of Deminex-Deutsch (Dörmag) AG, hold 42.5 per cent of the Thistle field.

The Deminex deal is the latest in a series of participation agreements concluded by the Government. Agreements have been made with Gulf, Conoco, Amoco and Ranger.

Memoranda of principles have been agreed with BP, Shell,

Fresh plan for refinery at Canvey

By Roger Viole

Occidental Petroleum is revising its plans for a 120,000 barrels a day refinery at Canvey Island and is holding talks with three potential partners in the \$410m (about £235m) project.

Dr Armand Hammer, chairman and chief executive of Occidental, said yesterday that the refinery would be owned by a consortium of three companies: Ashland Oil and Murphy Oil, were involved in the negotiations. ELF, the French state-owned company, also had an option to take a one-third share.

Dr Hammer was speaking after the inauguration of the Occidental group's terminal for oil from the Piper field on the island of Flotta in Shetland, Orkney. He hoped to have something positive on the refinery before the end of the year.

Occidental's plans for a refinery at Canvey have undergone considerable changes since it was conceived in the early 1970s to process oil from the company's Libyan fields. Eighteen months ago the refinery was shelved after \$110m had been spent, because of conditions in the refining business.

Hopes were first raised that the project would be revived when Occidental began abortive negotiations for the Iranian Government to take a stake in the company. Had these talks been successful the refinery might have gone ahead, using Iranian crude.

Occidental's latest plans for Canvey come when there is considerable overcapacity at existing refineries in Britain and most other parts of the world. Dr Hammer said the refinery would be technically different from earlier plans. It would have a 50,000-ton catalytic cracker and produce more petrol and naphtha than fuel oil.

Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, who undertook the inauguration ceremony jointly with Dr Hammer, said that while there was anxiety about refinery overcapacity at present, the Government wanted to ensure there was sufficient modern capacity available for North Sea oil.

Oil from the Piper field is flowing at the rate of 60,000 barrels a day. When it reaches peak capacity, it should be producing 250,000 barrels a day.

Higher revenues: Mr Hammer said he expected 1977 revenues to total about \$7,000m against \$5,300m in 1975.

Harrisons tries full bid for plantation 'sisters'

By Desmond Quigley

A day after a complex Scheme of Arrangement for the merger of three plantation companies managed by Harrisons & Crossfield was thwarted, Harrisons has launched a full takeover bid for the three sisters.

Essentially, the bid for Golden Hope, Pataeng and London Asiatic, is designed to achieve precisely the objects of the Scheme of Arrangement, but stands more chance of success because it will not be so easy to block.

The bid is to be made by Harrisons' Malaysian Estates, which had been set up in England in expectation of the original scheme going through, and will be effected by a share swap.

For every 100 shares in the existing companies, Golden Hope shareholders are being offered 155 HME shares, London Asiatic shareholders 134 HME shares and Pataeng shareholders 128 HME shares.

The takeover and subsequent merger and transfer of domicile, to Malaysia will be effective in the case of shareholders of any two companies agreeing. The Scheme of Arrangement collapsed on Monday when it failed to secure the necessary support from shareholders of Golden Hope after shareholders in the other two companies had voted in favour of it.

A main cause for the collapse was the opposition of Genting, a Malaysian company. Last night N. M. Rothschild, the merchant bank acting for Genting, said of the new proposal: "It does not attract us."

Mr Frank Harper, chairman of Golden Hope and a director of Harrisons, said that new proposals were being put forward because the Scheme of Arrangement had received the support of the vast majority of shareholders in each of the three companies.

The proposed HME dividend for the year to the end of March, 1978, has been increased from 3.48p a share gross to 4.62p under the new proposals.

Financial Editor, page 19

Dunford reply warms up J & FB contest

By John Brennan

Johnson & Firth Brown's £9.3m takeover bid for Dunford & Elliott, its fellow Sheffield steel maker, is steadily turning into a gentlemanly slanging match.

Mr Frank Welsh, Dunford's chairman, yesterday expressed his confidence in the group's defence of its £10m share premium and £1m reserves, and said that the £9.3m bid was "very overvalued" and "confused" and that he would be sending a document to shareholders on Monday by J & FB.

The document, which, unusually, includes details of Dunford's banking arrangements, which J & FB argues are "very onerous" and impose a number of unusual restrictions which seriously limit Dunford's freedom of manoeuvre — is, according to Mr Welsh, like the classic legal situation, where "if you have a weak case you abuse the opponent's attorney."

Mr Welsh feels that shareholders will ignore this "brilliantly weak" offer when they see concrete evidence of Dunford's promised earnings recovery in the first quarter results due shortly.

Dunford, which lost £1.1m at the pre-tax profit level last year, has forecast profits of more than £5m in 1976-77, a forecast against which J & FB directors have been openly sceptical.

In the latest offer document, Mr John Clay, J & FB's chairman, who forecast £11m pre-tax profits this year against 1975-76's £6.1m, writes that the risk of (Dunford's) bankers' requirements not being met is very high, and the likelihood of a further capital reconstruction is correspondingly great. Dunford's financial position remains very insecure even after its £3m rights issue.

Mr Welsh disagrees with J & FB's comment that Dunford has been "consistently over-optimistic in its forecasts", arguing that only two forecasts have been made in recent years, both of which were under-estimates.

Yesterday J & FB's shares closed 2p up at 49p. Dunford's rose 1p to 47p, 2p below J & FB's one for one share offer.

State industry chiefs form group to boost exports

By Our Industrial Staff

State industry chairmen have set up a group to boost public export. The group will act as a committee of the industrialized industries chairmen and seek ways of collaborating between themselves and with customers, suppliers and consultancy services.

The brief of the group is to examine direct exports, overseas project management and consultancy, and turnkey projects. Another main area, which is being separately studied for the National Economic Development Office by Sir Raymond Brown, Britain's former chief export salesman, is the scope for standardization of plant orders.

Mr Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board, is the chairman of the new group, which comprises British Airways, British Gas Corporation, British Rail, British Steel Corporation, the Electricity Council, National Coal Board and the Post Office.

Associate members are: British Transport Docks Board, British Waterways Board, Independent Broadcasting Authority, London Transport, National Bus Company, National Freight Corporation, National Water Council and the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority.

It is expected that the group will study collaboration at all levels from consortia projects to working.

The feeling in Whitehall is that many state industries have virtually untapped resources which could be invaluable to exports if closer collaboration could be fostered between state industries and the private sector.

Austrian group may offer Meriden deal

By Derek Harris

Steyr-Daimler-Puch, the Austrian automotive group, is considering whether to offer a cooperation agreement, covering development, production and research, to the troubled Meriden motor cycle cooperative.

It could lead to a rescue plan for the cooperative now that the Government has not considered in detail. However, Mr Peter Bolton, managing director of Steyr-Daimler-Puch GB, said in Nottingham last night that SDP would unquestionably have sufficient cash to give such aid.

Especially if the British Government was prepared to underwrite SDP financing for the cooperative, a rescue might be put together.

The Government has refused the cooperative £1m of aid, half of which is needed to buy out marketing and trading assets from NVT Motorcycles. The other £500,000 is wanted for development, especially of new-generation motor cycles to replace the aging Bonneville.

It is the second half of this financing that could interest SDP. Mr Bolton said that if his company was paid £500,000, it would be passed straight over to the Government to help redeem preference shares. "To that extent it would not cost the Government a penny," Mr Bolton said.

Hope of saving the cooperative raised by the Government decision to explore other possi-

US warns Japan to cut its surplus

From Peter Hasebrink, Tokyo, Jan 11

Japanese business leaders were given an unofficial but firm warning today that economic advisers to Mr Jimmy Carter, president-elect, will expect Japan to reduce drastically its overwhelming surplus in trade and services with the rest of the world.

This was said in Tokyo tonight by Professor Richard Cooper, of Yale University, who is expected to be named later this month as Mr Carter's Under-Secretary of State for Economic Affairs.

Professor Cooper, giving his personal views at the end of the seventh meeting of the Trilateral Commission — a private forum of Japanese, American and European economic and political experts, said: "To put it frankly, Japan is imposing an unjust burden on the rest of the world in running up such a large surplus in trade."

The Trilateral Commission, sponsored by Mr David Rockefeller, chairman of the Chase Manhattan Bank, to encourage better communications between the free world's three major economic powers, held its seventh round of discussions in Tokyo during the past three days to establish, in theoretical and unofficial terms, how the three industrialized nations could expand their economies to pull the world out of a recession.

Japan's controversial trade surplus with the European Economic Community was included on the agenda during a seminar today. In general terms, delegates supported a policy of continued free trade, in spite of the pressures for protectionist policies.

International Timber Corporation

Interim Report for half year to 30th September 1976

Turnover for the six months has advanced, brought about by higher prices due largely to the reduced value of sterling, and by increased deliveries to our customers. Our Belgian investment has continued to show a loss but encouraging profits in Holland mean that our European Division as a whole is now supporting the much improved U.K. results.

It is probable that activity in the first quarter of 1977 will be at a lower level. Interest charges will be higher. Accordingly profits for the second half year are unlikely to equal those of the first, although October and November gave a good start to the period.

Your Board has decided to pay an interim dividend of 2.5p for each Ordinary Stock Unit (1976 2.25p) and it is anticipated that the final dividend will be increased to the maximum permitted under current regulations. The interim dividend will be paid on April 7th, 1977 to Stockholders on the Share Register on March 4th, 1977.

Group Results

	Unaudited for the half year to 30.9.76	Audited for the year to 30.9.75	Audited for the year to 30.9.74
External Sales	£9,076	£9,522	£14,579
Profit for the Period	£1,91	£1,63	£3,93
Interest-Including Loan Stock £227,000 (1975 - £239,000)	1,639	1,525	2,987
Profit before Taxation	3,552	3,158	906
Group Profit after Taxation	1,752	58	407
Interim Dividend per Ordinary Stock Unit	2.5p	2.25p	5.64p
Earnings per Ordinary Stock Unit:			
Basic	11.9p	0.6p	3.4p
Fully Diluted	10.0p	1.05p	3.7p

How the markets moved

The Times index: 152.15 - 1.79
The FT index: 358.6 - 5.0

THE POUND

	Bank	Boys	Girls
Australia S	1.64	1.59	
Austria Sch	30.50	28.50	
Belgium Fr	45.75	62.75	
Canada S	1.79	1.74	
Denmark Kr	10.48	10.86	
Finland Mk	6.75	6.53	
France Fr	2.90	1.84	
Germany DM	4.29	4.07	
Greece Dr	75.00	71.00	
Hong Kong S	8.50	8.05	
Italy Li	1,620.00	1,550.00	
Japan Y	530.00	505.00	
Netherlands Gld	4.48	4.26	
Norway Kr	9.38	9.02	
Portugal Esc	59.50	54.75	
Spain Ptas	122.00	114.00	
Sweden Kr	7.54	7.19	
Switzerland Fr	4.45	4.23	
US \$	1.77	1.72	
Yugoslavia Dnr	34.75	31.50	

Rates for small denomination bank notes apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Commodities: Coffee prices partially recovered; cocoa was strong. Rubber's index was at 1585.3 (previous 1578.5).

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Japanese plea over backlog orders delays shipbuilding talks

Industrial Correspondent
Paris, Jan 11

Europe and Japan remained poles apart over measures to deal with the world shipbuilding crisis during several hours of talks here today held under the aegis of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The two sides are separated by fundamental differences and there is little prospect of the impasse being resolved. The EEC, however, managed to secure the formal and valuable support of the Spanish, Norwegian and Finnish governments to its proposal, made last month, for a 50:50 sharing of the world market in new ships.

Japan has consistently expressed strong opposition to the EEC plan and it was underlined yet again at today's meeting.

Pressure is now building up in Europe for the deployment of defensive measures against Japan, which last year mopped up 13 million gross tons of orders for sophisticated merchant ship tonnage at Europe's expense. The crunch with Japan could well come next month.

Over the next three weeks there is to be an intensive round of meetings involving Community officials, government representatives and shipbuilding industry leaders from all European countries in a bid to hammer out a coordinated policy to combat the incessant growth of Japan's share of what will be a dwindling market.

During today's meeting of the OECD's working party on shipbuilding, however, the Japanese scored a tactical point by successfully proposing that there should be a more detailed and more regular monitoring of the size of both European and Japanese order backlogs. The Japanese, therefore, have successfully delayed discussions,

claiming that the EEC plan—based solely on new orders—was unrealistic, and a clear picture of the overall situation could only be obtained by improved information on the state of order books revised every three months.

On the evidence at present available these are likely to show that Japan has less work in hand than yards in Europe. At the end of September last year, Japanese yards are estimated to have held the equivalent of 1.13 years' work against the 1.93 years' held by member countries of the Association of Western European Shipbuilders.

Europe's counters the Japanese plan, however, on the ground that these are misleading figures, since Europe's traditional dependence on more sophisticated types of ship taking longer to build explains the discrepancy.

But Japan's bid to delay the next meeting of the working party until after February 20 when new figures covering both new orders and the workload could be presented was frustrated by European delegates who insisted that the next meeting should take place on February 18.

Little else appears to have been achieved apart from an agreement to disagree over the EEC's plan for market sharing and some discussion of technical and statistical questions. However, at next month's meeting a Japanese Government delegation is expected formally to reject the EEC package as unworkable and against the principles of free trade.

After today's meeting, Mr. Shiroichi Yanai, head of the Japanese delegation to the OECD, said: "We are against any kind of market-sharing, but at the same time our Government has no intention of increasing its share of the world market."

In brief

House price rises slowed to 1pc in last quarter

A survey by the Nationwide Building Society shows that during 1976 house prices increased on average by about 8 per cent—little more than half the general level of price rises.

In the last quarter of 1976, house price rises had slowed to a national average of only 1 per cent.

But, said Mr. Leonard Williams, the society's chief general manager, the relatively slow increase in house prices was helping buyers and most properties represented good value at their present prices.

November sales higher than forecast

The British retail sales volume index for November was 109.3, up 1.9 per cent from a month earlier, and up 3.9 per cent from a year earlier, the Department of Industry said yesterday.

The department said the November retail sales suggest a recovery in trade from the fall in retail volume in October.

Life assurance premiums rise 18pc

New yearly premiums for life assurance and annuities increased by 18 per cent to £987m in 1976, according to the Life Offices Association.

The association's figures for last year show that single premium policies paid for in the year rose by 83 per cent, from £215m to £401m, reflecting a revival in the linked bond market. New sums assured rose by 17 per cent from £28,800m to £33,600m in the year and annuities increased by 22 per cent to £1,200m a year.

Record sales of De Beers diamonds

Diamond sales reached a record in 1976, earning the Central Selling Organisation, the marketing arm of De Beers with a new world-wide monopoly of rough diamonds, \$1,555m (about £905m).

In dollar terms, sales increased by 46 per cent while in rand terms the increase was 70 per cent on the previous year. The dollar sales were 17 per cent ahead of the previous record achieved in 1973.

Hotel bookings up

London hotels whose bookings are usually at the lowest level in January, are up by at least 50 per cent. Reason given is the unusually large number of Continental visitors attending the Boat Show and on shopping visits.

Leyland hangs on to market lead in face of challenge by Ford

By Ronald Embley
Ford's Escort and Cortina ranges topped the league of most popular cars in Britain last year with sales of 133,000 and 126,000 respectively. With its Cortina range in seventh place, the group took 25.25 per cent of total United Kingdom sales during the year.

British Leyland topped the market with 27.4 per cent of sales. Its top selling model was the aging Mini, with just over 81,000.

Leyland, which saw its market share decline from more than 30 per cent in 1975, will be anxiously watching sales returns over the next few months, as it is possible that Ford will replace it as leading manufacturer in sales terms.

Now that Ford is introducing the Fiesta next month it is certain that Escort sales will fall as a result, but it is widely expected that Escort/Fiesta sales combined will erode still further Leyland's market share.

Hope of peace formula in Rubery Owen strike

After six hours of talks in Birmingham, officials of the main unions at Rubery Owen's Darlaston, Staffordshire, motor component plant agreed that future disputes would be dealt with in the official procedure of the engineering industry. But they admitted at a conference later that they had still to "sell" the deal to their 1,800 members at the factory.

Mr. Moss Evans, national organizer of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said arrangements would be made as soon as possible to hold a mass meeting to do this.

Mr. John Owen, managing

director of Rubery Owen, said: "Encouraging progress has been made but there is still a long way to go before we can overcome the crisis facing the company."

Rover drivers strike: All movement of completed cars out of British Leyland's Rover plant at Coventry has been halted by a strike of drivers employed by a Birmingham car delivery company.

The drivers, who work for James Car Deliveries, stopped work on Monday in protest against moves by Leyland to change its car delivery arrangements at the Rover plant.

£10m military radio order for Philips offshoot

An order worth more than £10m for Clansman military radio equipment for an unspecified overseas government has been announced by MEL Equipment, of Crawley, Sussex, a subsidiary of the Philips electronics group.

The company says that it has now sold Clansman systems to military customers in Africa, South America and the Middle East, as well as supplying the British Army. MEL declined to identify the £10m-plus customer, but it is believed to be an African country.

This brings the total of Clansman export orders to more than £20m, the company states.

Agricultural Export Council closure fears

Closure of the British Agricultural Export Council was inevitable unless the Government and industry committed money to it, Lord Glenkilg, chairman of the council, said yesterday. Meanwhile, British agriculture was losing export business worth thousands of millions of pounds because it had failed to spend as much on promotion as other countries.

Lord Glenkilg told reporters that West Germany had sent two representatives to the agricultural shows in Latin America last year. "The best we have been able to do is to send one chap to one show every six months, and that strained our resources."

"If you go to Brazil you meet 20 Japanese in a little row. They are not doing it for fun; they are getting the business."

The council needed to know about its future by the end of January, Lord Glenkilg went on. It was worried that the recommendations of the Strutt report about farm exports from Britain, published in May last year, had not been acted upon.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wanted: a system of merit award embodying tax relief to industry

From Mr B. E. Cotton

Sir, If the country is to shift its material and human resources into manufacturing industry, we must accept that the material rewards must go to that sector. There must be an end of fairness and the Government must accept that tax benefits and incentives are biased in favour of manufacturing industry, and those who work and invest in it.

I should like to see a new scheme on similar lines to the Queen's Award for Industry, but different, in that the reward would be tax relief for the company and its employees with the removal of dividend control from its shareholders. It should not be difficult to devise a scheme whereby all those companies who agree with their employees to improve efficiency and thus profitability agree a target figure with Government each year for a percentage increase in output and profit over the previous year. If the targets were met then that per-

centage figure, or greater amount, by which output and profit had risen over the previous year would be averaged and the average percentage thus obtained applied as a reduction in corporation tax for the company, and income tax to all those who worked in the company at whatever position—whether chairman or floor sweeper. The percentage relief would be the same, but the amount rebated would vary in proportion to the individuals' tax commitment. I link increased output and profit as neither alone can fulfil the national need.

Such a measure, coupled with the cessation of dividend control for such companies would provide a powerful incentive to those in manufacturing industry and its investors as well as pointing clearly to students the obvious advantage of joining manufacturing industry.

The scheme may be unfair to those on fixed incomes, in

public service, and in services industries, but if it achieves a great increase in manufactured goods, increased output and closed the pay gap then more resources will be available for all.

Unless some such different tax scheme is brought in I doubt whether all the present shift in human material resources. It is materialistic philosophy, that is what manufacturing all about—material things their manufacture. Those who do not want to cope with organization of men and materials are quite right to seek their fulfilment in service others. But let those of us who are prepared to produce goods receive the reward of materialistic employment.

Yours, etc.,
B. E. COTTON,
Chairman, Samuel Osborn & Co Ltd,
Nether Lane, Ecclesfield, Sheffield, S30 3TR.

Interfirm techniques and accounting procedures

From Mr L. Taylor Harrington

Sir, A number of firms which participate in interfirm comparisons organized by this centre have asked us to what extent interfirm comparison techniques will be affected by the introduction in company accounting procedures of the methods proposed by the Accounting Standards Committee in ED18.

As many of your readers may be interested in this question, I thought I would write briefly to outline the situation, as follows:

(1) We do not intend to make decisions on possible alterations in performance method use in our work before discussion of the proposals has been completed and a statement of Standard Accounting Practice has been issued. The present proposals are not due to take effect, even for the largest companies, before accounting periods beginning July 1, 1978.

(2) In some respects, the ED18 methods are already used in our IFC work. For instance, companies taking part have for 15 years been revaluing plant and machinery on a current replacement cost basis, using industry price indices, and depreciation as a charge against profits has been based on the revalued figure. We would not envisage changing these methods fundamentally if ED18 becomes a standard.

(3) There is at least one area where ED18 would impinge on IFC techniques, namely the proposal to value stocks at current costs, and make the consequent adjustment to the profit figures. In IFC, historic costs for stocks have usually been used. If ED18 comes into operation, we shall consider adopting, at the appropriate point in time, the "current value of stocks" method.

Myths in 'soft option' theory

From Mr Geoffrey Drain

Sir, I see that Mr J. P. Pe (January 5) has succumbed to some of the myths in the "soft-option" public sector employment attracting the best brains from industry.

First, the figures he quotes show that more graduates enter industry than the public sector and that the share of graduates going into public employment is stable (the likely to decline given the sent cuts in expenditure).

Secondly, public sector workers would strongly resist any suggestion that it work is a "soft-option". Local government, my friend, are struggling to keep services going at a time when 50,000 unemployed are in the streets and down the country are adding intolerable burden to their labours.

Yours faithfully,
L. TAYLOR HARRINGTON,
Director,
The Centre for Interfirm Comparison,
8 Stockwell Street,
Colchester, Essex, CO1 1HN.

Automatic inclusion in pension plan

From Mr Geoffrey Wood

Sir, As I understand the 1975 Social Security Pensions Act, there is no question of contracting out as expressed by the four chairmen of various professional bodies in their letter published on December 22 but only of contracting out of the state scheme, and I agree that if the procedures are not completed in time people will be automatically included in the state scheme, in addition to any existing company scheme.

An interesting consequence would be an automatic breach of any pay code which prohibits improvement of company schemes beyond that required to provide the guaranteed pen-

sion of the state scheme, cause we would benefit from wholly additional scheme.

With that precedent, and with the help of Stan Orme's Albert Bootles, the way pay cc should permit the improvement of company schemes by amount equivalent to the total value of the state scheme, however expressed, in either benefits or earlier retirement, et cetera. Incidentally, can I advise a trade unionist to obtain an excellent TUC guide to contracting out, price 15p.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY A. WOOD,
7 Wolferton Road,
Bristol BS7 9BB,
December 30.

November beer revival cheers the breweries

A revival in beer production in November makes more cheerful news for the Brewers' Society who were earlier forecasting a 1 per cent drop in last year's total output. In November, output was 3,406,835 bulk barrels, a 1.51 per cent increase.

In the 12 months to the end of November production totalled 36,105,811 bulk barrels, a rise of 0.49 per cent over the 1975 period. A long, hot summer benefited output. However, in November there were two more brewing days compared with 1975. December's figure will be correspondingly lower than in 1975.

Oil payments widen Italy's trade deficit

Rome, Jan 11.—Italy's trade deficit widened to 619,000m lire (about £408m) in November, the Government Statistics Bureau reported today.

It compared with a gap of 320,000m lire in October and one of 201,000m in November 1975.

The November gap brought the trade deficit for the first 11 months of 1976 to 4,751,000m lire, compared with a deficit of 1,773,000m in the same period last year.

The November deficit was due to a 667,000m lire gap in petroleum trade, in small part offset by a surplus on the non-oil account of 48,000m lire.



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Business appointments

London and Manchester picks chairman-elect

Mr H. L. K. Browne, chief executive of London and Manchester Assurance, is to be made a deputy chairman with the intention that he becomes chairman upon the retirement of Mr Lewis Whyte next year. Mr Browne continues as a deputy chairman.

Mr Ron Weedon has been made managing director of British Relay Wireless and Television.

Mr David Kinloch has been appointed an executive director of Noble Group.

Mr M. H. Caine and Mr M. C. W. Widy, directors of Booker McConnell, have been elected directors of Kelsale (Provision Merchants).

Mr E. E. T. Nichols has become a director of Bank of India.

Mr G. W. Howie is to succeed Mr D. J. Nielson as chairman and managing director of Palm Line on March 31.

Mr F. W. Hall has been made a director of Metallurg Group Industrial Development. Mr M. A. Sandes becomes joint managing director of London & Scandinavian Metallurgical.

Mr Cyril Gallimore, managing director of United Kingdom, has been made a vice-president of Metal-Standard Europe. Mr Colin Wise and Mr

Norman Bennett have become joint managing directors to succeed Mr Gallimore in the United Kingdom. Mr Wise continues as financial director and Mr Bennett as commercial director.

Mr J. M. Smith joins the board of Brunel.

Mr K. Jones becomes chief executive and managing director of Metallgesellschaft.

Mr Donald Crammings has been appointed managing director of EMI (Australia). Mr John Kuipers continues as chairman.

Mr Tom James has succeeded Mr Nicholas Moss as chairman of William Moss and Sons. Mr Moss remains on the board.

Mr G. B. Brown and Mr P. R. S. Thomas have joined the board of Unilever.

Mr A. N. G. Dalton, deputy chairman of English China Clays, has been made a director of National Westminster Bank's south-west regional board. Mr J. G. Parkes, chairman, Unilever Merseyside Committee, becomes a director of the bank's north regional board.

Mr Keith Bridger has become an additional director of C. E. Heath (North America) and resigned as a director of C. E. Heath (North American Reinsurance Broking).



Mr Rawlings. Mr Weedon.

Mr David Rawlings has joined the board of Trafalgar Watc.

Mr A. Lloyd and Mr P. Richards have been elected directors of Greenstock, Ridd (Life & Pensions) Consultants.

Mr Roland A. Kjelland has been made executive vice-president, Kaiser Steel Corporation.

Dr V. M. Wadsworth has been appointed executive vice-chairman of Elther Industrial. Mr K. Williams becomes group managing director.

Mr Sidney Armstrong has become chairman and Mr Derek Broadley managing director, Darwin Alloy Castings and Darwin Magnets International.

Mr Jack Steer has been made president of the Association of Butter Blenders and Butter as Cheese Packers.

Mr F. H. Bailey has been appointed to the board of Clayton, Son (Hidg).

Mr John Lawrenson has been made managing director of Bulling Law Reports.

Mr Tom Morris-Jones is to join the partnership of Albert J. Sharp.

Mr D. E. Whittingham has been made managing director as chief executive of Benta Insurance (UK) to succeed Mr W. S. Herderson, who remains on the board as non-executive chairman.

Mr Philip E. Beekman is joining the Seagran Company as president and a director as well as chairman of the operating committee and member of the executive committee.

Mr William C. Pierce has been appointed head of Chemical Bank's petroleum and mineral division and a senior vice-president.

Mr R. M. Carroll is joining Decca Communications as director.

Mr John Cullis has joined the board of Francis Schuster as a executive director.



INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE BROKERS, UNDERWRITING AGENTS & TRAVEL and FREIGHT AGENTS.

HOGG ROBINSON Interim Report 1976-77

Extracts from the Interim Statement by the Chairman Mr Francis Perkins.

The profit for the half year to 30th September 1976 was £2,550,000 showing an increase of 26% over the same period in the previous year. The increase in Group turnover during this period was 30%. Insurance Broking turnover amounted to £8,139,000 of which 58% was received in foreign currencies.

The principal factor leading to this increase has been the outstanding results in our international operations. However, until confidence is again restored to British industry the other parts of the Group cannot be expected to achieve a similar rate of progress to our international operations. Nevertheless, their results to date are in line with forecasts.

In July we purchased Grace Brothers' travel interests in the United Kingdom. This is proving a valuable acquisition and is being smoothly merged into our travel company.

Although our industry—as with all service industries—is vulnerable to the erosive effects of inflation, I am confident the Group will have another successful year.

An interim dividend of 3.25p per ordinary share will be paid on the share capital including the rights issue last August. This is equivalent to 5.00p per share gross and compares with 3.00p per share declared last year.

The consolidated trading results (unaudited) were as follows:

	Half-year ended	Half-year ended	Year ended
	30.9.76	30.9.75	31.3.76
	£000	£000	£000
Group Turnover	10,600	8,130	18,747
Profit*	2,550	2,020	5,933
Dividend (gross equivalent)	5.00p	3.00p†	5.2p†

*Before taxation and minority interests

†Without adjustment for Rights Issue

تَكَذَّبُ مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

The interest rate dilemma



signs of flagging, this is a modest rating; and there is nothing to detract from the shares' attractions in a prospective yield of 6.6 per cent.

Interim: 1976-77 (1975-76)
Capitalization £8.08m (—)
Sales £22.26m (£19.1m)
Pre-tax profits £1.78m (£2.39m)
Dividend gross 3.98p (3.62p)

International Timber

Peak of the cycle

International Timber's £3.55m interim profits are nearly four times those for the whole of the previous financial year and heavily underline the strong recovery pattern already displayed by others in the sector during 1976. But stock prices on the back of sharply higher timber prices—particularly in softwoods—have been a major influence and there is little doubt that the industry has now passed its cyclical peak.

Like its competitors IT has seen a significant tapering off in demand since the last year end, while a near-doubling of overdrafts, to around £20m, to finance higher stocks will result in interest charges rising sharply from the £1.6m recorded in the first half.

Looking further ahead to the next financial year (to March, 1978), prospects still look grim with lower demand and the virtual elimination of stock profits as prices flatten out. However, interest charges could be falling sharply, and hopes of a strong construction revival around the beginning of 1978 should ensure that pessimism in the sector is not unduly severe.

Meanwhile IT has at last broken even on its European operations.

The group seems unlikely to achieve much more than £5m for the full year and the shares, down 1p to 74p yesterday, are on a prospective p/e of 34, only fractionally below the sector average. Meanwhile, the prospective yield of 12.3 per cent is not unduly attractive, given IT's tendency to over-amplify the movements in the timber cycle, competitors like Mowlem, Meyer or Mallinson might offer safer investment opportunities within the sector at this stage.

Interim: 1976-77 (1975-76)
Capitalization £5.5m (£16.00m)
Sales £59m (£51m)
Pre-tax profits £3.55m (£1.6m)
Dividend gross 3.85p (3.46p)

Johnson-Richards

Paying the penalty

Johnson-Richards' misfortune in making too much profit in the first half of last year has been the cause of its predicament in the second half of this year. The price to pay for maintaining this policy, however, could be that potentially volatile funds will continue to be attracted to the company's shares, which are attractive in the scale of the dividend, the prospect of a further increase in the year, and the fact that the company's shares are now to fall faster, holding off foreign investors.

So, although the United Kingdom subsidiaries have been operating at maximum capacity, and first-half volume was some 10 per cent up on the corresponding period, Johnson-Richards' profits have fallen sharply down, how far may be judged from the fact that profits overall have declined by over £600,000 despite a 10 per cent increase in the (relatively small) profits of overseas subsidiaries and a 10 per cent increase in the contribution from associates, no longer being devoured by the Indian strike of the first half of last year, from £29,000 to £239,000.

Having now paid the price of its past error of judgment, however, Johnson-Richards appears to be set for a good second half, since demand for its ceramic tiles is still running at a high level both at home (where sales through an increasing number of outlets and direct demand appear to have compensated for the housebuilding slump) and abroad.

The United States subsidiary is still making losses; but they have been declining, and its deficit should be the best part of £500,000 lower at the end of this year than at the end of last. Meanwhile, profits at home (which accounts for around half of all sales) will compare with those achieved in a period when margins were already under six per cent, and the group should be able to achieve something over £3.5m pre-tax for the year.

On that performance the shares, down 4p to 148p yesterday, are selling at under six times the prospective earnings. Given that demand shows no

Hogg Robinson

As the pound rallies

Insurance broking shares have enjoyed a nine-month honeymoon with the stock market, the continued fall in sterling assisting a sector which earns more than half of its profits overseas. The recent revival in sterling has, consequently, sparked a reaction among broking shares and Hogg Robinson, further hampered by a number of over-enthusiastic external estimates of its profits this year, slumped 5p to 130p yesterday on news of half-year pre-tax profits of £2.55m. With 58 per cent of its turnover overseas, Hogg is not, however, the strongest foreign earner in the sector. This factor weighed against it last year, but it could act as a stabilizing influence on the share price as the floating pound learns to swim.

Hogg's dividend, above the sector average with a prospective 6.5 per cent on the basis of forecasts made at the time of its rights issue last August, provides adequate support at this level.

Interim: 1976-77 (1975-76)
Capitalization £29.2m (—)
Turnover £16.65m (£14.02m)
Pre-tax profits £2.55m (£2.03m)
Dividend gross 5p (3p)

The scheme agreed in Basle and announced on Monday to deal with the problems of Britain's sterling balances has still some rough edges which need to be smoothed off, but it is clear enough that the world's monetary authorities have learnt to avoid the mistakes of the past.

Whether through the use of the special standby credit arranged with the Bank for International Settlements, or whether through the sale of dollar and other foreign currency bonds, the British Government is now clearly committed to ending sterling's role as a reserve currency in the world.

The importance of the sterling balance problem is often overstated, since the amounts of money involved are not enormous and few countries are so heavily committed to sterling now that worrying about the pound is one of their most important priorities.

It is ever easier to fool ourselves into thinking that sterling balances are something which were forced on us long ago by our imperial role, and that this generation has had to deal with an inherited problem.

As the table shows, most of the difficulties and the benefits from sterling balances in recent years have come from the rapid inflow of all funds which began at the end of 1973 and which were welcomed as a way of staving off an acute current account deficit.

But these qualifications apart, the agreement in Basle could mark a settlement of lasting importance. It is the final step in a series of measures, of which the other most important one was the loan from the International Monetary Fund, which are designed to mark the end of years of chronic balance of payments deficits and weak currency.

With the uncertainties caused by capital movements out of the way, the picture looks rosier in any case and the prospect of North Sea oil bringing a current account surplus by next year comes into sharper focus.

In some ways the most encouraging part of the deal is that it is clearly designed not to stabilize the sterling balances but to get rid of them. Although the authorities are determined to do nothing which might be construed as putting pressure on foreign holders to, for example, buy the new government bonds, the real success of the two-part scheme adopted will not be that it may never be necessary to bring it into effect but that it does provide a way out of the whole problem.

In doing so, it will get rid of what has been a source of increasing worry to governments over the past 30 years, though one which in the past they have never really wanted to get rid of.

When sterling balances were building up in the past, governments have tended to encourage it, looking on it as a sign of how highly their policies were regarded. When the balances have gone down they have called "foul".

The sterling balances in their present form date from the

Second World War. One of the ways in which Britain's participation in that conflict was financed was to encourage the building up of deposits in London by the dominions and colonies.

The most important holder was India, which became independent shortly after the war and which ran down its holdings during the 1950s. This run-down, however, did not cause anything like the problem which had been expected when the new world monetary order was set up in 1944, partly because by the 'fifties the United Kingdom's balance of payments crisis had eased and partly because, as the war-time holders of sterling ran their balances down, so other colonies built them up.

The official British attitude at this time was not to look upon sterling balances as a necessary part of sterling's role as a reserve currency. Although outside observers, most notably the French, were strongly critical of this, their attitude was attributed to a mixture of jealousy and lack of understanding.

The fact that much of the world's trade was denominated in sterling provided some psychological compensation for the fact that the amount of it accounted for by British exports was falling rapidly, while having access to the resources of the sterling area as a whole was thought to make the United Kingdom's payments problem easier to handle.

Also, sterling's reserve currency role was given much of the credit for London's resurgence as a financial centre.

Many of these reasons may have been wrong, but it is doubtful whether a country whose export performance was declining as rapidly as the United Kingdom's could have afforded to pay off an external debt of about £3,000m during the fifties.

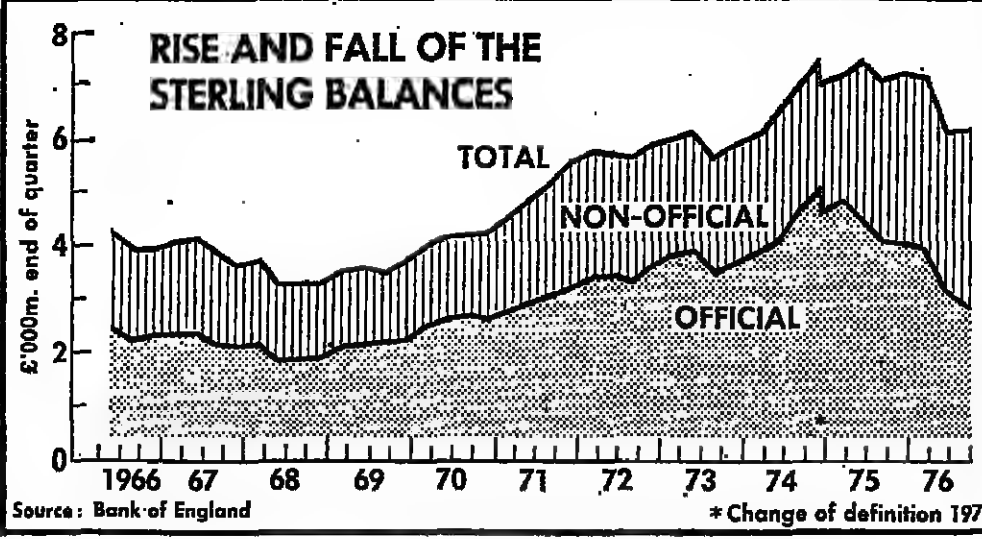
As long as the pound remained fairly stable, so did the total of the sterling balances. Indeed, a desire to ensure that sterling holders did not feel cheated is generally thought to have been one of the main motives behind the authorities' determination to keep a fixed value for the pound during the fifties and early sixties, even at the price of holding down the price of sterling in the British economy.

Some of the most perceptive critics during the sixties argued that it was the tying of British policy to that sort of rigid money strategy which was the real damage done by the sterling balances. Instead of being a force likely to stimulate demand, they helped to make it less likely.

That is not how it appeared to makers of government policy during the latter part of that decade and it seems likely that the scars of the last desperate battle to protect the pound's parity, which occurred during the time that Mr James Callaghan was Chancellor, must have had a great impact on thinking during the past few years about the sterling balances' role.

These years were ones of

As the sun sets on the sterling balances...



recurrent crisis for the pound and yet between 1962 and the end of 1973, the total value of sterling balances actually increased sharply, from £3,600m to £5,900m.

During this period there were two Basle agreements designed to deal with the problem of the balances and they both led to a sharp increase in sterling funds in London, which made

David Blake discusses the significance of the agreement reached in Basle

other problems of the United Kingdom less pressing but which scored up trouble for future years.

The first agreement was introduced in the summer of 1966, at a time when the balance of payments figure, and the season's strike, had caused a run on the pound. Almost all kinds of sterling balances were falling and the central bank's agreement on a safety net scheme under which the United Kingdom could draw from a fund if its reserves fell below a certain level, was a direct result of the agreement.

The reassurance this sterling

Patricia Tisdall

Why the holiday tour groups fear a price war

The established operators, with the warning of the collapse of the holiday trade, are keenly aware of the importance of the holiday trade. According to the Civil Aviation Authority, the 10 top tour operators collectively moved into the holiday trade in 1975 after at least three years of being out of it. They are now making money and are thought to have stayed there in 1976, despite the smaller number of holidaymakers. This is because prices were more than adequate to cover costs, and the fear is that panic pricing could tip the carefully balanced profit scales.

The other tour operators are nevertheless alive to the attraction of the holiday trade, and the more so since Cosmos (Swiss-owned and based in Liechtenstein) appears this year to have won substantial trade from British Airways through its lower-priced packages it offers.

Even before the British Airways move Thomson had prepared to cater for holidaymakers wanting to economize, but it was by drawing up special economy programmes, rather than cutting existing prices, one of the more ingenious schemes introduced under the "Square Deal" name offers reductions to holidaymakers prepared to leave the choice of hotel at a given resort (out of an illustrated and named selection) to the tour operator.

Both Thomson and Cosmos have reserved the option to offer discounts for holidays booked within a month of departure and, if bookings do not pick up soon, they and other tour operators are likely to take the option up. But a price war on the scale forecast by some observers and as seen in the late 1960s, during the heyday of the package tour, is unlikely to be repeated.

Tour operators want, for instance, to walk and see how costs perform without surcharges. Introduced after the 1973 oil crisis these are a fairly recent entrant to the package holiday market and the responsible operators feel guilty about the way in which they were implemented.

Some companies collected late surcharges at the airports. Others were accused of quoting unrealistically low brochure prices, secure in the knowledge that they could raise them later.

Most tour operators have agreed for some time that surcharges should be abolished, but doing this may not prove easy. Package holiday prices are made up of three main components—the cost of the hotel, which for an average short-haul 14-night holiday, costing about £175, would amount to about 35 per cent; the air fare, which on such a holiday would account for about 25 per cent; and the tour operator's costs

and profits, which take up the remaining 20 per cent.

The biggest of these, the hotel price, is negotiated in local currency, typically pence or shillings, and will fluctuate according to the rate of exchange against sterling.

The rates charged for aircraft seats are heavily influenced by oil prices, particularly the longer haul destinations, and are negotiated in dollars. Prices here will fluctuate not only with the exchange rate between the United States dollar and sterling, but also according to oil prices.

To protect themselves against currency fluctuations both Thomson and Cosmos bought currency forward, a facility available to some of the smaller tour operators. Neither company will go into the details of its transactions, partly because of their complexity.

In October Mr Wilfred Jones, chairman of Thomson Holidays, had made a "forward commitment" to the tune of £25m for the purchase of foreign currency and that this had been possible because the company was Swiss-owned.

Business Diary: Strike bonus: CEEB's reduced power

At British Leyland's body plant at Cowley, where yesterday that production had improved since the day's 450 foremen went on strike, the company has maintained an uneasy silence about the floor reaction to the foremen's dispute, saying that lay-offs are not expected.

Transport and General Workers' Union shop steward, Blevitt, said that contrary to the foremen's expectations, the union had continued. "We need better production rates without the foremen we had with them there," he said, "but we could run the job if in the chance."

Now events have given us a chance to prove our point," he said, "and we have proved it. The shift workers also proved better than usual production and some of them new records."

He foremen are on strike, but they say it is the ally union's dispute, the member of their union, the division of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs. He said that the union was weak for allegedly drinking the factory on Christmas.

STMS members at other plants are expected to action. The union has been asked to make the strike a "solidarity" strike.

Mr Murray, an ASTMS shop steward, said that the foremen, should be able to do even without the foremen. The union was higher because restrictions imposed upon them were on duty had now relaxed.

He was once superintendent of the Bradwell nuclear power station and is a part-time member of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority.

It is said that the quarterly electricity bill at his Reigate home is rarely less than £200, thanks to his all-electric style of living, which ranges from an electric car to underfloor electric heating.

The CEEB cannot really go on much longer on this reduced manpower: look out, therefore, either for some fresh appointments soon—or for some worker representatives if Energy Secretary Tony Benn gets his way and uses electricity supply as his testing ground for industrial democracy.

The First Hundred Years, a centenary history written by Rex Winsbury.

Much of the interest inevitably lies in what the book turns up about the early years of the firm, particularly about the founder, Thomson McLintock, whose lack of formal qualifications led him to become an associate member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales rather than the more strictly regulated Scottish professional bodies.

He was, apparently, an eminently practical man. Rather than sell off stock at knock-down prices in a grocer's liquidation, he decided to continue the business and went behind the shop counter himself, which ensured a better deal for creditors and demand for his services in future liquidations.

The McLintock family are still in the business, though not at present as senior partners. Of the family line, however, it was perhaps Thomson's son, Sir William, who has been the biggest driving force in the firm over the past hundred years. He was largely responsible for the explosive growth in the London office in the inter-war years, became an important figure in the accounting and financial world of the day and played his part in the creation of ICI—where Thomson McLintock remains a joint auditor.

Among their more recent coups have been the audits of the National Enterprise Board and the British National Oil Corporation.

The firm will further celebrate the centenary with a return to the native heath in

October when it will virtually be taking over Gleneagles for a week.

Tax race

President Ford surprisingly just cannot wait for Jimmy Carter to take over at the White House.

Carter, it will be recalled, pledged tax cuts and the creation of a new Energy Department. President Ford now seems so keen on these ideas that he has decided to help his successor by proposing them himself just before leaving office.

Last week Ford beat Carter by three days in announcing a package of tax cuts and yesterday he beat Carter again by sending proposals to Congress to merge many government energy agencies into a single department of energy.

Even Elliot Richardson, the Secretary of Commerce, admits that the energy plan closely resembles the one that Carter is likely to propose.

Congress, meanwhile, has little time for Ford. The President's proposals are not even being taken seriously on Capitol Hill as congressmen wait for proposals from the new President.

Most of Congress's time this week—illustrating its keenness to let President-elect Carter get down to business as soon as he takes office on January 20—is being devoted to hearings to confirm the cabinet secretaries chosen by the newcomer.

CEGB's Bob Peddie: one more down.

Switchboard

The Central Electricity Generating Board, which has been operating two short of the normal board of six for more than a year, is to lose a third member in June.

This is Bob Peddie, who is leaving in June to succeed Bob Rutherford as chairman of the Brighton-based South Eastern Electricity Board, on the latter's return in June to chair his alma mater, the North Eastern Electricity Board.

Peddie is therefore leaving to sell the power he has been helping to supply in his 29 years in the industry, the last five of them on the CEGB board. He leaves at the same time as CEGB chairman Sir Arthur Hawkins is being replaced by Glyn England.

Peddie is a nephew of Lord Peddie, chairman of the Post Office Users' National Council.

A chap who complained that his letters were often franked stamps missing in transit.

was told by the Post Office that the gum is not what it used to be and that most Post Offices now have a pot of glue for the public to use in case of difficulty.

Happy for accountants Thomson McLintock enter 1977, their centenary year, with last September's Department of Trade report on the affairs of Ralph Hutton Transport Services now little more than a memory.

The report, inter alia, said that Thomson McLintock had acted without reasonable skill in one instance. This year, however, appears another sort of report, Thomson McLintock—

At book value

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Early bookings

Both moves are, of course, intended to counter the present low level of advance holiday bookings, down by somewhere between 25 and 50 per cent (depending on area and price bracket), compared with the same period last year. Tour operators need to know their summer bookings very early in the year in order to make their hotel and aircraft allocations and to plan their cash flows.

To win early bookings they are prepared to gamble on sterling's future performance by holding to brochure prices drawn up a year in advance.

However, memories of the hysterical "winter weekend" price war of six years or so ago, when margins were pruned to vanishing point, inhibit any similar moves now. British Airways, which only during the past four years has seriously developed its package holiday trade, evidently has no such memory.

Other 'extras'

Mr John Sauvage, managing director of Thomson Holidays, explained that his company's guarantee had been secured by buying an unspecified amount of foreign currency in advance to cover hotel contracts. It had done this using an arrangement with an international finance group with connections with its parent, the Thomson Organisation.

But only hotel prices and the currency elements in air travel charges can be secured in this way. Tour operators must be prepared either to absorb oil price increases or exclude them from their guarantees.

In any case, "no surcharges" does not mean "no extras". Airport taxes, which can add £3 to £4 to brochure prices and the Government's 2 per cent levy are, for instance, automatically excluded from most brochure prices.

The various guarantees differ in the cover they offer and the small print exclusion clauses in some have already drawn unfavourable attention from the Office of Fair Trading and other consumer protection organisations.

The Thomas Cook guarantee, for example, operates only from the time the final invoice is issued. The Cosmos guarantee excludes large aviation fuel increases, "say, of 15 per cent". Other no-surge guarantees apply only to holidays booked before a certain date.

The worth of many of the guarantees can only be gauged after they have been fulfilled in what is universally acknowledged to be one of the most difficult years for the trade.

Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments also on page 24

All recruitment advertisements on this page are open to both male and female applicants.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

A case of weary gilts and tired shares

After an initial mark-up on the safety net for the sterling balances, share prices continued their reaction to the strength of recent weeks as profits were taken.

Selling was not strong until mid-afternoon, but thereafter it intensified as sterling lost ground on the foreign exchange and it became apparent that the London market was not likely to be cut again this week. The FT index, 2.5 up at 10 am, had slipped to 2.8 below its overnight level by 2 pm and continued to lose.

The market buzzed with talk that a large line of Kwik Save shares had changed hands outside the market. Currently being related, the share was a brick two-way trade, but sellers finally won the day and the price closed 2p lower at 132p.

ground thereafter, closing a full five points down at 358.5. Gift-edged stocks had another very busy day, but were much more volatile than of late. Here, too, the considerations were interest rates and the pound and early gains of up to a full point were not held. By the close, "longs" were showing rises of just a quarter, with medium and short dates around three-eighths better.

Most equity dealers consider that the market has been

heavily overbought in the last few weeks and are only surprised that the reaction of the last few days has not been stronger. With restraining factors like next week's trade figures on the horizon, most expect the present mood to persist for several days yet.

If anything, "blue chips" tended to fare worse than the rest of the market. ICI, the day's most active stock, was lowered 9p to 343p, Beecham gave up 4p to 374p, Glaxo 5p to 400p, Courtaulds 2p to 53p, with Unilever holding on to 424p.

Following the market trade, Hawker Siddeley fell 3p to 458p in engineers, where Spear & Jackson, continuing its takeover fight, lost 7p to 113p and Weyburn was lowered 4p to 340p ahead of figures.

The profits forecast contained in the Dunford & Elliott bid document helped Johnson Fitch Brown to add 2p to 49p, with Dunford itself closing a point better at 47p. Steel group Sanderson-Kayser jumped 9p to 50p on limited demand in a thin market and vague bid talks which the company denies.

A surprisingly bullish broker's guide helped a number of building shares to go against the trend. Particularly strong were Travis & Arnold 8p to 92p, Ellis & Everard, also helped by bid suggestions and 4p better at 78p, May & Hassell 3p to 54p,

Tarmac Cement 2p to 143p and Tarmac 2p to 138p.

After profits, International Timber dipped a penny to 74p, while both Parker Timber 63p and Phoenix Timber 67p put on a couple of pence. Other firm

Seekers of second-liners are alighting on Colnag Group whose industrial fastenings are now 75 per cent of sales, and probably more of earnings. In March the group should report 1976 profits of more than £750,000 against 1975's record £597,000 and a maximum dividend. The yield is already more than 11 per cent and the historic price-earnings ratio 3.8.

spots in the sector were RMC 80p and London Brick 42p.

In oils, reports of a "dry" North Sea well and the general trend left BP no less than 28p lower at 78p and Shell was also in decline with a drop of 6p to 464p. But on North Sea influences both Tricentral 105p and British Borene 128p held firm even though ICI Gas succumbed to profit-taking and lost 12p to 333p.

In the stores sector, British Home Stores led the way down, losing 5p to 140p. But Allied Retailers continued to go ahead, this time 2p to 84p, while Gateway Securities, mentioned here as a possible bid candidate, firmed several pence to

44p after news of an unspecified approach.

There were some hefty falls in foods where Reckitt & Colman lost 7p to 333p, Paterson Zochonis 5p to 145p, Tate & Lyle 4p to 262p and Needlers another penny to 12p after earlier trading losses.

Scottish & Newcastle edged ahead to 50p in front of figures. Other big names like ground were Lucas 6p to 204p, EMI 5p to 224p, Metal Box 4p to 249p and in papers, Bowater 4p to 180p, De La Rue 13p to 230p, Reed 3p to 191p and McCorquodale 3p to 142p.

Most of the clearing banks lost a few pence, the exception being Barclays which held steady at 262p. In insurances, Hogg Robinson lost 9p to 130p after disappointing figures,

while others in retreat include Phoenix 6p to 198p, Alexar Howden 3p to 131p and W Faber & Dumas 3p to 200p. Akroyd & Smithers continue to reflect strong gilts trade with another 4p gain to 1 and for the same reason U Discount added 5p to 330p. Allen Harvey & Ross 10p to 390p.

Equity turnover on Jan 10 was £63.74m (14,784 gains). According to Exche Telegraph, active stocks yesterday were ICI, Shell, BP, DfD, GEC, BAT, Ind. Barcl Commercial Union, Courtaulds, Midland, P & O DfD, Marl Spencer, Hawker Siddeley, Robinson, Beecham, Travis Arnold, Great Portland, In national Timber and Albrigt Wilson.

Latest dividends

Company (and par value)	Ord div	Year ago	Pay date	Year's total	Prev year
Baker's Household (10p) Fin	0.40	0.36		0.75	0.69
Bootham Eng (1p)	8.25	7.5		8.25	
Burgfield-Harris (25p) Int	0.75	0.75	2/2	2.1	1.9
City of London Brew (25p)	0.52	0.5	28/2	2.1	2.1
Rogge Robinson (25p) Int	0.51	1.95	28/2	2.17	2.17
Timber Int	0.5	0.5	7/4	1.6	1.6
Int Capital Trst (25p) Fin	0.65	0.50	10/3	1.2	1.0
H&R Johnson-Rich (50p) Int	2.58	2.35	1/3	5.7	5.7
Thurg Cons (10p) Int	404	404		1708	1708
Stones Stroud Int	1.6	1.6		0.32	0.32
Leadershul (10p) Int	1.01	1.0		0.38	0.38
McHadden (25p) Fin	1.22	1.2	1/3	2.45	2.3
Glennan & Co (50p) Fin	1.2	2/3		4.1	3/73

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on penny per share. 1.00 where in Business News; dividends are shown on a gross basis. 1.00 establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.54. * On bigger cap.



Residential property

also on page 24

Properties under £25,000

REDCLIFFE SQUARE, S.W.10
In the heart of the fashionable district of Notting Hill, this is a superb conversion of a Victorian house into a modern flat. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The flat is on the ground floor and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.
01-584 8517

MAIDA VALE W9
ST. VALUE IN TOWN
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.
01-493 8121

SOAMES
01-734 4498

S.W.10
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

PIMLICO
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

BARONS COURT
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

LAKE FARM, N.W.3
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

LAKE PARK, N.W.3
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

ewly built artist's studio/mews house, W.11 in private cul de sac
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

OLLAND ROAD, W.14
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

S.W.1.
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

WALE
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

WANDSWORTH COMMON
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

BATTERSEA
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

HAMILTON TERRACE, ST. JOHNS WOOD
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

OAKHILL PARK, HAMPSTEAD
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

CORNWALL
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

CORNWALL GARDENS SW7
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

Devonshire Close, W.1.
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

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Woodrocks
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

SOMETHING SPECIAL!
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

Clapham Common West
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

S.W.10
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CLOSE GLOS. RD. TUBE, S.W.5
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

Kenwood's
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

IDEAL BUSINESS & HOME
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

ANYONE FOR FISHING
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

ONSLOW SQ. S.W.7
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

GREVILLE PLACE, N.W.6
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

SYDENHAM
A large detached house in a quiet residential area. It has a large garden, a swimming pool, and a tennis court. The house is on a large plot and has a large frontage. It is a very attractive property and is well suited for a family or for a professional. The price is £24,500.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE S.W.3
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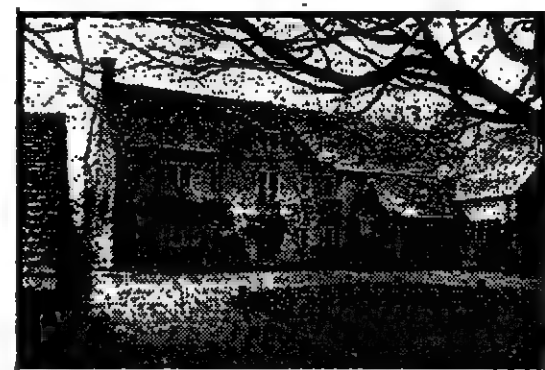
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Knight Frank & Rutley

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Stroud 6 miles, Cirencester 10 miles.

A COTSWOLD STONE MANOR HOUSE WITH SUPERB VIEWS.



3 1/2 5/6 2 1/2 oil 2 1/2

Additional features: Separate guest wing.
FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH ABOUT 4 1/2 ACRES.
Joint Sole Agents: DAVIS CHAMBERLAIN & PAYNE, Stroud (Tel: 04538 2275) and KNIGHT FRANK & RUTLEY, London Office (Tel: 01-629 8171) (57843/PR)

SURREY/BERKSHIRE BORDER

Virginia Water (Trains to London 30-35 minutes).

A WELL APPOINTED FAMILY HOUSE ON THE WENTWORTH ESTATE.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH ABOUT 1 1/2 ACRES.

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SUSSEX/HAMPSHIRE BORDER

Midway between Petersfield and Chichester.

A MOST ATTRACTIVE AND RECENTLY EXTENDED COUNTRY HOUSE IN A COMPLETELY SECLUDED SITUATION

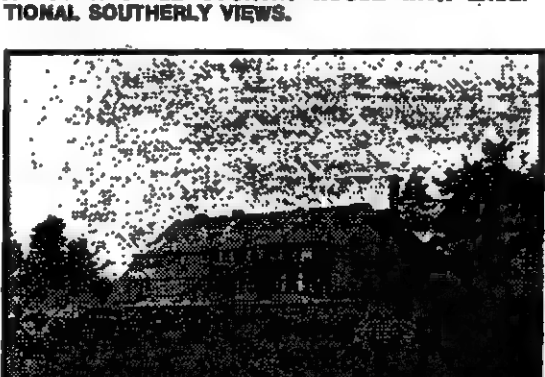
3 1/2 6 3 1/2 elec. 2 1/2

Additional features: Staff accommodation of 2 reception rooms, 3 bedrooms, bathroom. Range of outbuildings. Floodlit grounds with mature trees.
FOR SALE WITH ABOUT 65 ACRES
Joint Sole Agents: WELSH EGGAR, Guildford (Tel: 0448 75002) and KNIGHT FRANK & RUTLEY, London Office (Tel: 01-629 8171) (36926/CF)

ESSEX

Theydon Mount, Epping.

A TUDOR STYLE COUNTRY HOUSE WITH EXCEPTIONAL SOUTHERLY VIEWS.



4 1/2 6 3 1/2 2/3 1/2

Additional features: Staff wing with 2 bedrooms and bathroom. 5 heated greenhouses. Outbuildings. Grounds.
FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH ABOUT 15.77 ACRES.
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20 Hanover Square London W1R 0AH and at 14 Broad Street, Hereford, HR4 9AL Tel: 0432 3087

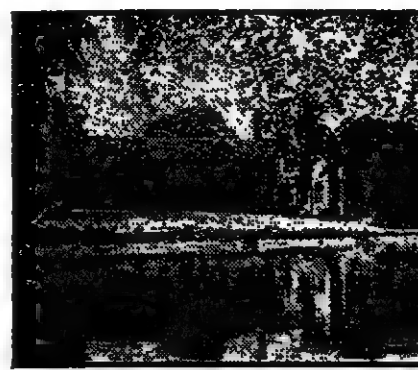
8 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, EH2 4DR Tel: 031-225 7105

Telephone 01-629 8171 also in City of London Amsterdam Brussels Faro Geneva Kano Lagos Paris Tehran

SUSSEX

Newick 2 miles, Haywards Heath 5 1/2 miles.

A CHARACTER FAMILY HOUSE.



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Additional features: Large reception rooms. Grounds with kitchen garden, paddock and lake.
OFFERS OVER £25,000 WITH ABOUT 5 1/2 ACRES.
Apply: LONDON OFFICE (Tel: 01-629 8171) (57483/TR)

WANTED FOR INSTITUTIONAL CLIENTS

GOOD QUALITY FARMS OR ESTATES

Large units preferred. Let, sale and leaseback or vacant possession.

Please apply, in confidence to Mr Prag.

Apply: LONDON OFFICE (Tel: 01-629 8171)

WANTED ON A LONG LEASE

UP TO APPROX. 100 MILES WEST OR SOUTH WEST OF LONDON

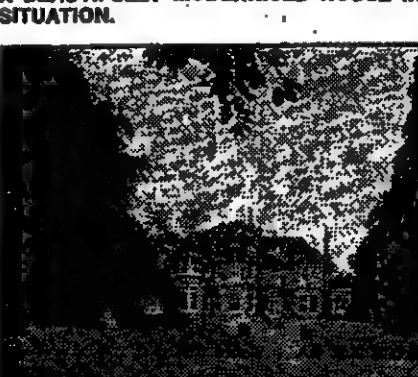
Well established client wishes to rent an unfurnished house (preferably to include carpets and curtains) with a minimum of 4 main bedrooms, 2 reception rooms and staff accommodation for 3.

Apply: LONDON OFFICE (Tel: 01-629 8171) (PR)

SURREY

Near South Holmwood, Dorking 3 miles.

A BEAUTIFULLY MODERNISED HOUSE IN A LOVELY SITUATION.



4 1/2 6 3 1/2 oil 2 1/2

Additional features: Adjoining National Trust Common Land.
FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH ABOUT 2 ACRES.
Joint Sole Agents: WHITE & BOYS, Dorking (Tel: 0306 57854) and KNIGHT FRANK & RUTLEY, London Office (Tel: 01-629 8171) (57728/PBP)

KENT

Maidstone 2 1/2 miles.

AN EARLY GEORGIAN HOUSE IN A SECLUDED SETTING.



5 1/2 9 4 1/2 oil 2 1/2

Additional features: Attic rooms. Stable block and outbuildings.
FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH ABOUT 10 ACRES.
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SURREY

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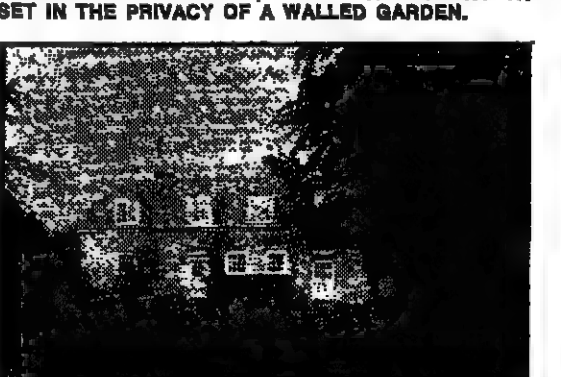
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TERN HILLS, GEORGIAN OR VICTORIAN FARMHOUSE
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MIDDLESEX SALARY NEGOTIABLE + LVs
Intelligent Secretary/Personal Assistant required for chairman of expanding public company with interests in the U.K. and overseas. The successful applicant will have a good standard of education, accurate shorthand and typing, although good speeds not essential, a pleasant personality and the ability to work on own initiative.
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The Business Director is responsible for the marketing and distribution of a wide range of specialised publications with an international circulation and for subscription and sales administration.
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This post will suit someone who already has, or who would enjoy acquiring, the basic understanding of Computer Operations and who could therefore handle the associated secretarial work with a minimum of direct guidance. Approximate salary is £3,300 p.a. The job is with Eastman Kodak Company, 246 High Holborn (near Holborn Underground). Interviews will be held in London, but please apply initially with brief details to:

Personnel Department (SEP/AT), KODAK LIMITED, P.O. Box 66, Kodak House, Station Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP1 1JU. Tel.: Hemel Hempstead 61122, ext. 20, Mrs. S. E. Petty.

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London up to £3,759

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CHARING CROSS £3,000 plus LVs

A Director whose work involves him in surveys on consumer durables and magazine readership, requires an experienced Secretary aged 23 plus, with shorthand and excellent typing, preferably experienced on IBM Goliath typewriter. The successful applicant will handle a wide variety of duties so if you are adaptable, with lots of initiative, and would like to work with a friendly group of people, please telephone Mrs. Shirley on 01-836 1511

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Young ladies or gentlemen who have had Catering training and some experience and would like to manage a Snack Bar in imposing West End office of multi-national company, offering high salary, excellent career opportunities and fringe benefits. Apply to CATERING and ALLIED SERVICES Limited, 22 Charing Cross Rd., W.C.2. 01-836 3794/5

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For Managing Director of rapidly expanding leisure group. Adaptable person who can delegate and supervise. Excellent salary and benefits. Tel. Jane Dawhurst, 439 2597 for details and interview. STADIUM STAFF

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£3,276-£3,600

We need a competent and experienced Secretary who can provide a complete secretarial service to our Senior Assistant Director, dealing with personnel policies for the Council.

We are seeking a skilled shorthand typist who will be able to receive visitors, screen telephone calls, arrange travel and meetings, plus dealing with correspondence and taking notes of meetings.

You will be involved with confidential work where tact and discretion are needed in dealing with people at all levels.

Interested? Benefits include flexitime, 23 days holiday, canteen and superannuation scheme. We are near Brixton tube and main line stations.

Application forms are obtainable from the Recruitment Officer, Directorate of Management Services, London Borough of Lambeth, 17 Porden Road, Brixton Hill, London SW2 5SS, or tel: 01-274 7722, extn. 148/413. Closing date 24th January, 1977.

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Good English and at least one other European language, fast accurate typing (no shorthand required) and the ability to work under pressure are all essentials in this demanding yet rewarding position.

The much travelled Sales Managers of one of our busiest and fast expanding product lines dealing with the newspaper industry throughout Europe need a calm and capable secretary to complete their Sales Team.

In return we offer a very attractive salary, some European travel, four weeks holiday, pension scheme and a subsidised restaurant.

To find out more contact Angelina Strane, Personnel Officer, W.R. Grace Ltd., Northdale House, North Circular Road, London, W.10. Tel: 01-885 8911.

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£4,000+

The Managing Director of a long established but go-ahead medium sized Company with offices and car park in the City requires assistance from a lively, intelligent person of good appearance and pleasing personality, who is able to work closely with him and on his own initiative. Applicants must be well qualified in basic secretarial skills (including shorthand). The work can be demanding but will be rewarded with a commencing salary of £4,000 per annum, plus an annual ex gratia bonus; L.V.s, a first class pension scheme and B.U.P.A. benefits.

Please reply giving age and full particulars of previous experience to the Managing Director. Box No 2808 P, The Times.

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01-235 0555

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for Managing Director. Applicant is responsible position requiring excellent shorthand and typing. Previous experience in television and radio a definite advantage. Position decidedly stimulating and offers considerable scope. Able to speak "Australian" decided advantage! Salary £3,250.

*Phone for immediate appointment Miss Greenhigh 580 2080.

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Required. Medical Secretaries with extensive knowledge of medical secretarial work. Duties will cover in all aspects of medical work with the hospital. The post carries a salary commencing at £2,357 p.a., rising annually to £4,200 inclusive. Job description and application form (see Green) Personnel Office (Tel. 01-405 2000 Ext. 624). Closing date 28th January, 1977.

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Overworked Partner in a West London Provisional Firm requires a Secretary/P.A. with excellent shorthand and typing skills. Must be able to cope with a fast pace and all around are lacking things. For further information please ring 01-488 7188.

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Bilingual Secretary—English/German

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The Divisional Director of the Commercial Department seeks a capable Secretary with previous experience of working at senior management level and the ability to read and communicate in German. This is an interesting and responsible post, and would suit a Secretary able to use his/her own initiative.

The salary is attractive and other benefits are of the high standard expected of a major company.

Please apply to: Miss R. J. Tinkler, Personnel Officer, Pharmaceutical Division, Hoechst UK Limited, Hoechst House, Salisbury Road, HOUNSLOW, Middlesex. Tel. 01-570 7712.

Hoechst

TRILINGUAL SECRETARY/SOCIAL P.A. SPAIN

For American Director of Spain's leading Shoe Designer/Manufacturer.

Mature, responsible and attractive lady with no less and looking for a career, who has a love of elegant shoes and a size 5 English foot, or very close, and is able to speak, read and write English, Spanish and French, and hopefully, some German, as well as having accurate shorthand and typing, is required to work very closely with the American Director of Spain's leading elegant women's shoe designer/manufacturer.

She must be prepared to become involved in the international marketing field, liaising directly with factory operations which will call for a high degree of individuality and personality, and especially travelling, at first with her Director and then on her own, throughout Europe and North America.

Although a love for shoes and travel is all important, the successful applicant will command a salary that is equivalent to that of approx. £2,750 net. Please reply in writing, giving a telephone number and details of experience to:—

MR. P. WELSFORD WELSFORD JENNINGS & CO., 24 BEDFORD SQUARE, LONDON WC1B 3HH Interviews will be held in London.

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Circa £3,760 COLINDALE NW9.

General Motors Overseas Corporation is looking for Secretaries to work for two Directors at their European Headquarters, Colindale.

These are both very senior positions and the secretaries must be of the highest calibre; able to provide a full and complete Secretarial Service. In addition, as both men travel extensively their secretaries would be expected and encouraged to maintain continuity in their absence.

Applicants must have had several years experience working at a high level, preferably with a large international company. Preferred age 30-45 years.

In addition to high starting salary and excellent working conditions, the successful applicants will be working in a relatively small group, but have the advantages and benefits of being part of a large international Corporation.

Please write giving recent job details and, if possible, daytime telephone number to: A.J. Norris, General Motors Limited, Stag Lane, London NW9 9.

CONVEYANCING SECRETARY

Conveyancing partner requires intelligent Secretary aged 22/23 with practical conveyancing experience to handle some aspects of conveyancing with limited supervision and to take shorthand as required. Modern open-plan office in Aldwych area, IBM Goliath typewriter, hours 9.30-5.30. Salary £3,000 neg. plus £1.25 L.V.s p.w. 01-831 7526

ADMIN SECRETARY MAYFAIR — £3,500 +

National Industrial Promotion Organisation, widely regarded as one of the most effective in the world, requires a competent senior secretary to join its U.K. office in Mayfair, dealing with international recruitment projects. The successful applicant, assisted by one other secretary, will be capable of organising and taking charge of the day-to-day administration of a small office, as well as assisting with the planning of promotional functions. A high degree of job commitment as well as the ability to work as part of a multi team is essential. Starting salary negotiable in the range £3,500-£4,000 p.a. Irish Industrial Development Authority, 01-439 6155

PERSONAL ASSISTANT/SECRETARY TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE

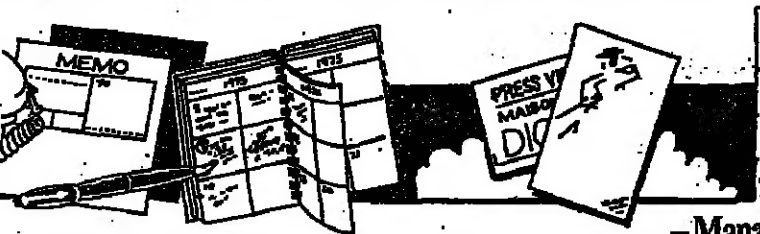
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Not a large wage but a
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delightful house centre of vil-
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cooking and housework. Mainly
needed as companion help when
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Not a large wage but a
happy relaxed atmosphere with
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